

RINGSIDE REPORT



ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Flanagan and Smith prove their worth with scintillating performances

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BOXING NEWS



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Golovkin and Lemieux take centre stage as the auditions for Floyd Mayweather's vacated slot at the top of the sport begin

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October 15, 2015

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Formidable Golovkin takes on fellow banger Lemieux

Photos: CHRIS FARINA/K2/GBP & ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS/JOE CAMPOREALE

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Liam Desmond

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BOXING NEWS



Photo: ACTION IMAGES/CRAIG BROUGH



WORLD-BEATER:
Flanagan proves
he is top-drawer



Cover photography
JOE CAMPOREALE/USA TODAY
SPORTS & ACTION IMAGES/
PETER CZIBORRA &
CRAIG BROUGH

CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

Flanagan deserves plaudits after proving he belongs at world level



Matt Christie
@MattCBoxingNews
Editor

TERRY FLANAGAN and his team felt they were being underappreciated by sections of the media – this publication included – before Saturday night's exceptional victory over Diego Magdaleno in the first defence of his WBO lightweight belt. Certainly his title-winning effort over Jose Zepeda was inconclusive – when a dislocated shoulder ended the American's hopes – but the Mancunian's desire, ability and world-

class credentials were proved, and then some, with his two-round hammering of Magdaleno.

Those closest to Flanagan have suspected for a while what their fact is capable of, but the fact remains that his finest win prior to moving into world class was a disqualification success over Stephen Ormond; those slow to recognise Flanagan as one of the best lightweights in the world were only acting on evidence, and not potential. Following his latest success, though, Flanagan deserves all the compliments coming his way.

Still only 26, and with an enviable work ethic complementing his rapid development, the lightweight could become Britain's most prolific king over the coming year. He can box well going forwards and back, and the uppercut that caused the second knockdown of Magdaleno is a delightful weapon that any of his immediate

challengers would struggle to withstand. The British scene in the 135lb weight-class is flying at the moment, and with Flanagan, Derry Mathews, Anthony Crolla, Kevin Mitchell, Luke Campbell, Ricky Burns and Scott Cardle all vying for supremacy, a period of real excitement and quality hopefully awaits. The next step is for the teams of those boxers to make the fights the public want to see.

Flanagan's promoter Frank Warren deserves a special mention. His experience at developing champions, and finding opportunities for them at the right time, is a gift that cannot be taught. Terry's win was the performance of the night but Liam Smith lifting the WBO super-welter belt

was another highlight on a top-quality bill, as he became the first of his talented family to lift a world strap. After being written off many times, Warren has proved that he is still one of the world's leading promoters, as he hosted a night to remember in front of a crowd undoubtedly diminished due to two huge rugby events taking place in Manchester on the same day.

Some might say that Flanagan deserves to be the headliner on this issue's cover, and that was something we considered. But after much thought, we decided that Gennady Golovkin's impending middleweight unification clash with David Lemieux, one of the most anticipated contests in the world, was worthy of top billing. Whatever we decide to put on the cover – in the hope of attracting as many readers as possible – it's never, ever intended as a slight on those who don't make it.

FRANK WARREN'S IS A GIFT THAT CANNOT BE TAUGHT

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● **HECTOR CAMACHO**, Sot Chitalada, and Yuri Arbachakov are the latest names to be put forward for potential induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2016. Unlike in previous years (think of 2014, when Joe Calzaghe, Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad were all elected) there isn't a name among them where induction is a certainty.

Next year's ceremony looks certain to also include at least one inductee from the following holdovers from previous years' ballots: Paulie Ayala, Nigel Benn, Donald Curry, Chris Eubank, Leo Gamez, Genaro Hernandez, Julian Jackson, Santos Laciari, Rocky Lockridge, Miguel "Happy" Lora, James "Buddy" McGirt, Henry Maske, Dariusz Michalczewski, Sung-kil Moon, Michael Moorer, Orzubeck "Gussie" Nazarov, Sven Ottke, Vinny Pazienza, Lupe Pintor, Gilberto Roman, Gianfranco Rosi, Samuel Serrano, Meldrick Taylor, Fernando Vargas, Wilfredo Vazquez Snr, Ratanapol Sor Vorapin and Hilario Zapata are all up for selection in the modern category.

Coming next week

● **WE** are ringside in Madison Square Garden as Gennady Golovkin and David Lemieux throw down in a mouth-watering clash that will crown a unified – if not undisputed – middleweight champion.

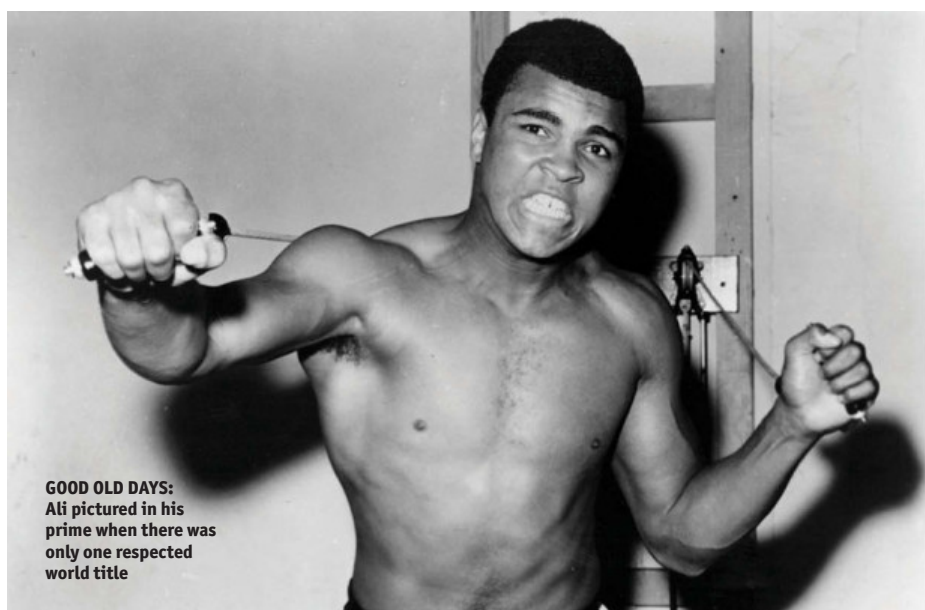
● **KELL BROOK** makes what could be a tricky defence of his IBF welterweight title against tough, gritty Diego Chaves in Sheffield. Paul 'Nostradamus' Wheeler previews the bill and predicts the main results.

● **EDITOR** Matt Christie speaks to the legendary Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini about his enthralling career and what he is up to now.

● **NEW** world champion terry Flanagan talks to George Gigney about his remarkable rise and crowning glory.

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GOOD OLD DAYS:
Ali pictured in his
prime when there was
only one respected
world title

ONE WORLD; TOO MANY TITLES

The amount of 'world' belts on offer make the game unrecognisable



**John
Scully**

*Ex-light-heavy
contender*

THE situation with multiple 'world' titles is not good for the fighters, or the sport. For me it is a simple equation: there is only one world. To have more than two men in a single weight-class claiming to be the world champion is so confusing and misleading. Back in the day when men like Muhammad Ali (for most of his championship career) and Ray Robinson, Jake La Motta, Willie Pep, Joe Louis and those guys were champions there was no doubt or dispute.

In the late 1970s and the first half of the 1980s we had just the WBC and the WBA and that was great, too, because at least more top contenders could get shots at the title and there was always the chance for a complete unification of the championships. It worked extremely well when Ray Leonard and Tommy Hearns matched up in 1981 for the welterweight title because the whole world knew that night that by midnight there was going to be just one undisputed champion in the weight-class.

But then the IBF showed up in 1984 and it's been slowly but surely heading into the situation that we find ourselves in today.

We accept it all to a certain degree because we don't seem to have any real choice in the

matter. I think it would take a large number of fighters with deep character to step up and refute these titles and the steep sanction fees the world bodies charge them for their belts to really make a difference. I remember light-heavyweights Antonio Tarver and Glen Johnson going without the belts in one of their fights on HBO and I thought it was great but unfortunately it didn't catch on among other fighters as I thought it might.

For me it seems painfully obvious that there are very few fighters in this era with a true and deep appreciation for the history and the integrity of the game who would stand up and speak out against the over-population of watered-down championships belts in the world today. It seems like most would rather just grab the belts that are offered to them in hopes of passing themselves off as comparable to what we had before this influx. To be completely honest, sometimes I see fighters of today comparing their accomplishments to champions of yesteryear by bragging about the number of belts they've won as some sort of proof of their greatness. It's literally sickening.

As a kid in the early 1980s I used to stand on my father's bed and pretend I was on television fighting for the championship of the world. All I ever wanted to fight for was the undisputed title, and to prove I was the best. I think it is very likely that if the game were formatted then as it is today I likely never would have pursued it as I did and would never be in a position as I am now to even be here today writing about it.

**WE ACCEPT IT ALL TO A CERTAIN DEGREE BECAUSE
WE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY REAL CHOICE**



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WHAT'S HOT ON OUR WEBSITE...



MANNY'S PLANS

We present a video wherein Manny Pacquiao reveals who he wants next



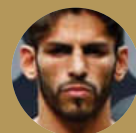
SCARY FIGHTERS

Alex Zender rounds up the top 5 most frightening boxers in the world today



FRAMPTON'S ROUTE

Carl's manager Barry McGuigan explains why the future does not have to include Scott Quigg



LINARES TO UNIFY?

WBC king Jorge is taking a close look at rivals Darleys Perez and Anthony Crolla

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TWEETS

@DIEGOMAGDALENO

@terryflanagan5
class act and such a
gentlemen.
DIEGO
MAGDALENO
shows respect to
WBO lightweight
champion Terry
Flanagan after
being stopped in two
rounds by him.

@PAULSMITHJNR

Absolutely buzzing
and proud.
My brother is
champion of
the world x @
LiamBeefySmith.
PAUL SMITH reacts
to his younger
brother Liam
stopping John
Thompson in nine
rounds to lift the
WBO super-
welter crown.

@ANDYLEEBOXING

A big congratulations
to the new champ
@LiamBeefySmith
and still the champ
@terryflanagan5.
Two sensational
finishes.
WBO world
middleweight
champion ANDY LEE
praises Smith and
Flanagan after their
world title triumphs.

@BJSANDERS_

You can't get three
champs with 1 belt
#WBA one man for
all us middleweights
#GGG.
World title
challenger
BILLY JOE
SAUNDERS
addresses the
WBA's interim
title situation
and claims their
'Super' champion,
Gennady Golovkin,
is the man to
beat at 160lbs.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

BRONER'S SPURIOUS CLAIM



ADRIEN BRONER is a four-time world title claimant, not a four-time world champion.

When he won the (WBO) super-featherweight 'world' title, Takashi Uchiyama, still the *Boxing News* No. 1, had already been champion for nearly two years. Other title claimants were Takahiro Ao and Juan Salgado.

During his brief reign as WBC 'world' lightweight champion, the other world champions were Richar Abril, Miguel Vazquez and Ricky Burns.

His six months tenure holding the WBA 'world' welterweight title coincided with far more convincing title claimants Keith Thurman, Floyd Mayweather, Devon Alexander, Shawn Porter (who unanimously outpointed Broner in June this year) and Timothy Bradley.

Other current claimants to the 'world' super-lightweight title are the undefeated trio Viktor Postol, Cesar Rene Cuenca and Terence Crawford.

In the whole of boxing history, there have been two undisputed three-weight world champions – Bob Fitzsimmons and Henry Armstrong (four if you count Tony Canzonieri and Barney Ross, who were champions in the then-unfashionable super-lightweight division). There has never been a four or five-weight undisputed world champion.

Kevin Bachelor, Shepperton

UNWORTHY CHALLENGERS

WHILE the proliferation of world titles has undoubtedly diluted the overall quality of modern-day world championship challengers, poor world title contestants have been evident

Photo: STEPHANIE TRAPP/SHOWTIME



PROBLEMATIC:
Broner wins yet
another belt

throughout boxing history. For example, Joe Louis' infamous 'Bum of the Month Club' included Jack Roper, who had 39 losses on his record when he challenged "The Brown Bomber" for the world heavyweight belt in 1939. Roper was dispatched in the first round.

Gunner Moir was 12-3 when he challenged world heavyweight champion Tommy Burns in 1907. This included a KO loss to a fighter who was 5-4-2. Moir was completely outclassed and knocked out in 10 rounds.

Teddy Davis tried to wrest the world featherweight crown from Sandy Saddler in 1955, but lost a drab fight on points. Davis' record going into the fight? 63-50-5.
Gregg Morgan, Swansea

LOOK BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

IN my opinion, every world champion should have to defend his title at least twice a year against one of the top five

contenders. Furthermore, wouldn't it be great if we went back to the days of just eight divisions, with one world champion in each one? I can dream, can't I?

Mark Taha, Ealing

THE YORKSHIRE HUNTER

LIKE most boxing fans, I can vividly recall the first live boxing event that I attended. It was the August 1998 bout between Paul Ingle and Rakhim Minhalieyev in Scarborough. Paul won via fourth-round KO. I followed his career keenly thereafter – he was my first boxing hero.

The tragic consequences of Paul's fight with Mbulelo Botile in December 2000 have been well documented, but are dealt with in an emotional and thought-provoking manner in his recently published autobiography, *The Yorkshire Hunter*. I'd urge anyone who has not already read this excellent book to do so.

Alex Bingham, London

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/CRAIG BROUGH

WE ASKED...



WHO IS BRITAIN'S BEST LIGHTWEIGHT NOW AND WHY?



JAMES BROWN

I'm sticking with Ricky Burns until another British lightweight proves differently.

JOHNATHAN CROFT

I think Luke Campbell beats them all now, too much talent. Fair play to Terry Flanagan though. And Anthony Crolla isn't half-bad either!

MICHAEL RAE FORMSTON

Flanagan on achievements. Then Anthony Crolla and Kevin

Mitchell. But Luke Campbell is making it all look easy so far.

DAVID ANDREWS

Mitchell. He was just up against the best in Jorge Linares [1 vsf 10], think if his head's right he will beat the rest of the Brits.

DAMIEN BURTON

Flanagan on current standing, then probably Burns on merit and Campbell on potential.



HIGH ACHIEVER:
Flanagan holds
a world title



HEAD-2-HEAD

GENNADY 'GGG' GOLOVKIN VS SAUL 'CANELO' ALVAREZ

Who wins this mouth-watering middleweight clash and why?

MAIA LEAT
"GGG" Golovkin at middleweight. I don't believe anyone will beat him there.

TIM WINDMILL
I think "Canelo" will win, I think they are pretty much the same in boxing skill but I think "Canelo's" inside game will be the thing to separate them. Good fight though, lots of action.

MARK NEWCOMBE
Alvarez might be a bit more skilful but at middleweight, he gets floored by Golovkin every day.

DAVID NICOL
"GGG" is easy to hit. "Canelo" will beat him – a better boxer with better defence. Both have good fighters to get past first [Golovkin against David Lemieux, Alvarez versus Miguel Cotto], which I think they will.

TIGER BOOSH
"Canelo" is not a true middleweight. Golovkin would stop him inside of eight rounds.

THE PANEL

WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO TAKE OVER AS BOXING'S MAIN ATTRACTION AFTER FLOYD MAYWEATHER?



Josh Warrington
Unbeaten featherweight
Gennady Golovkin looks unstoppable at the minute although [Saul] "Canelo" Alvarez is also obviously one to watch and he's still very young. Roman Gonzalez is exciting as well, so one of those three.



Tommy Karpency
Light-heavy contender
The winner of Golovkin-David Lemieux will be the next big star I think, Golovkin is on a roll at the moment. Amir Khan has always come close but recently he hasn't had the big fights or created much excitement.



Stuart Hall
Former world bantam champion
Anthony Joshua. There's a lot of hype around him and a lot of people come out in huge numbers to see him. It'll be a year or two before he properly gets to that level, but I think he'll be the next star.



Nick Blackwell
British middle king
It has to be Golovkin. Each time he steps up in class he shows how good he is. People are already talking about him now, once he dismantles Lemieux he'll be huge and maybe he'll get bigger fights.

WHO IS BOXING'S BIGGEST PUNCHER, POUND-FOR-POUND?

Josh Warrington
Unbeaten featherweight
Golovkin. You have to go with him, he just looks like he could knock walls down with his power, it's unreal.

Tommy Karpency
Light-heavy contender
Sergey Kovalev and Adonis Stevenson are both up there, as well as Lemieux and Golovkin. We'll find out who hits harder when they fight, but it's between those four for me. It's very difficult to pick one.

Stuart Hall
Former world bantam champion
Again, I'll say Anthony Joshua! Everybody he hits he knocks out. I know a lot of people say he's not been tested yet, but there's no one out there to test him. As soon as he lands, it's over.

Nick Blackwell
British middle king
"GGG" Golovkin, it has to be him. He's got that one punch power, but the way he sets up his shots as well, and his timing, it's all down to a tee.

'GOLOVKIN LOOKS LIKE HE COULD KNOCK WALLS DOWN, IT'S UNREAL'

10 COUNT

MIDDLE GROUND

George Gigney lists 10 of the best middleweight fights in history.

1 MARVIN HAGLER W KO 3 THOMAS HEARNS (1985)

These two modern greats poured everything into three hellacious rounds which ended with Hearns limp on the canvas.

2 ROCKY GRAZIANO W RSF 6 TONY ZALE (1947)

Both eyes badly swollen and behind on the cards, Graziano blitzed Zale in the fifth and sixth.

3 TONY ZALE W KO 6 ROCKY GRAZIANO (1946)

Zale dropped Rocky in the opener only to be mauled for the following five rounds until he found a miraculous body shot to force Graziano to his knees.

4 HARRY GREB W PTS 15 MICKY WALKER (1925)

A sensational second round was the standout moment, but the contest came down to a gruelling last in which Greb produced the better work.

5 CARLOS MONZON W PTS 15 RODRIGO VALDEZ (1977)

Valdez's fast start, including a second-round knockdown, was not enough to quell the furious Argentinian, who gallantly rallied.

6 SUGAR RAY ROBINSON W KO 5 GENE FULLMER (1957)

Robinson became the first man to win the world middleweight title four times when he planted on Fullmer perhaps the best left hook ever.

7 GENE FULLMER W RSF 14 CARMEN BASILIO (1959)

An enthralling first round fatigued both men but Fullmer's counter-punching punished Basilio.

8 CHRIS EUBANK W RSF 9 NIGEL BENN (1990)

A heated build-up boiled over into an unforgettable night during which Eubank wore a valiant Benn down.

9 SUGAR RAY LEONARD W PTS 12 MARVIN HAGLER (1987)

Although the decision was contentious, the action was brilliant and the upset huge.

10 JAKE LAMOTTA PTS 10 SUGAR RAY ROBINSON (1943)

In the first of their many meetings, LaMotta floored Robinson and handed him his first pro loss.

THE WEEK

What's been going
on in the boxing world
over the last seven days

 **TRENDING** #BRITWORLDCHAMPS / #GEORGE GROVES / #DeGALEVS BUTE / #GGG

Photos: ACTION IMAGES



SOLDIERING ON

WEDNESDAY October 7, 2015

GEORGE GROVES [above left] confirms his split from trainer Paddy Fitzpatrick [above right] live on Sky Sports and indicates he will continue to box despite his disappointing run of form. The super-middleweight followed infamous losses to Carl Froch with a defeat to WBC champion **Badou Jack** in Las Vegas last month.

"I talked with some close friends who would give me an honest opinion and at [age] 27 you don't need to make bold statements," Groves states. "At the same time I want to do something I enjoy and at times I haven't enjoyed boxing."

The Londoner admits he would be willing to work with Froch's former trainer Robert McCracken but promises there is no chance of a reconciliation with Adam Booth. The fighter also reveals that retirement had crossed his mind following his failure to capture world titles, but Groves still believes he can rule at the highest level.

"I'm not in an immediate rush," George says. "I'm not in a rush to be fighting at the highest level. Hopefully my name and my performances will bide me that time and I won't be forgotten overnight. I want to go on, achieve more, be involved in big fights, win world titles, defend them, unify them and that's still the case."

FROCH TO RETURN?

THURSDAY October 8, 2015

JAMES DEGALE'S advisor Ambrose Mendy has not given up hope that his fighter could face Carl Froch next year, despite the Nottingham star being retired. Speaking to *Boxing News* at a press conference at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium to confirm DeGale's November 28 IBF super-middle defence against **Lucian Bute** in Quebec, Mendy says: "When [Froch] was world champion he chose not to box for a year. He didn't chase unification or anything, he just chose not to fight and I hope that scars him forever."

Mendy expects DeGale [below] to defeat Bute and secure a homecoming fight at the Emirates in May or June next year.

"When James fights here it might be Carl Froch that he's fighting. Don't believe all that crap about him retiring – he just couldn't be bothered to do what he felt wasn't being amply rewarded," Mendy opines. "That said, and I'm not saying this was the figure, but let's say he turned down £3m to fight James – and for the record, James offered to fight him for 10 per cent of the purse – then anything is possible in the future. It's now our job to whet the appetites of the public."



FIT AND READY: Lee has a clean bill of health and faces Saunders in December

THIRD TIME LUCKY?

FRIDAY October 9, 2015

ANDY LEE will defend his WBO middleweight title against **Billy Joe Saunders** on December 19 at the Manchester Arena after the fight was twice postponed. The pair were originally scheduled to meet on September 19 at Thomond Park Stadium in Limerick but after the champion picked up a virus the bout was moved to October 10. Saunders then picked up a cut in sparring, meaning the contest was postponed again, but both men are looking forward to the showdown.

"The fight has to happen and we're both eager for it. We've been on and off in camp and you have to time it right. We've been working hard and we'll be ready for December 19," Lee [left] comments.

'IT SUITS ME, EVERYBODY WANTS TO SEE THIS FIGHT'

"It suits me, everybody wants to see this fight," Saunders adds.

BETERBIEV'S CHANCE

IT looks like perennial light-heavy contender **Karo Murat** could meet **Artur Beterbiev** in an IBF eliminator. The Armenian fell short against both **Nathan Cleverly** and **Bernard Hopkins**, and would be a huge underdog against the revered slugger. The winner could set up a shot at **Sergey Kovalev**, and the two camps have until October 22 to strike a deal before the match goes to purse bids.

“QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

‘IT’S A GREAT TIME FOR THE DIVISION IN BRITAIN AND I’M RIGHT IN THE MIX. I’D LIKE TO WIN MY OLD BELT BACK’

Ricky Burns is motivated once again and keen to recapture the WBO lightweight title he once held with distinction



SHARP SPIKE

SATURDAY October 10, 2015

INSIDE the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, Ireland's **Gary "Spike" O'Sullivan** warms up for his proposed December 12 showdown with **Chris Eubank Jr** when he halts **David Toribio** in two rounds. Also on the bill in Massachusetts is Dublin's **Stephen Ormond**, who scores his second straight victory since a February loss to **Terry Flanagan** when he knocks out the badly faded **Michael Clark** inside a round.

Over in Caracas, Venezuela, WBC lightweight champ **Jorge Linares** – fighting in his homeland for the first time in five years – drops **Ivan Cano** in the third before knocking him out in the fourth. The champion's trainer tells *Boxing News* that they are now looking to unify the division.

"After a good rest, Jorge will go after the WBA title," Ismael Salas reveals.

MEMORABILIA FAYRE

THE annual Boxing Memorabilia Fayre near London's Euston station, ably organised by Chas Taylor, results in the usual enjoyable afternoon where old friends can catch up and fans can add to their collections (assuming they have the space!). Along with regulars Ivor "The Engine" Jones and Ronnie Smith, another ex-boxer helping this year's event go with a swing is super-exciting welterweight Rocky Kelly.

KHAN STILL HUNG UP

SUNDAY, October 11, 2015

BOXING NEWS, out in Doha to cover the World championships, catches up with **Amir Khan** [above] and discovers he's still struggling to forget about Floyd Mayweather as negotiations for a 2016 showdown with **Manny Pacquiao** stall.

"The Pacquiao fight, basically my team's taking care of everything," the Englishman tells us [before later in the week suggesting he had withdrawn from negotiations]. "Pacquiao is a fight I'd like to have because styles make fights. Me and Pacquiao used to train together, used to spar together, we are friends but sometimes friends have to fight.

"At this moment in time I think it can happen, it's all about just doing the little things, contracts and stuff. I've left it to my team. My team takes care of it. It's a good fight for me. I wanted the Floyd Mayweather fight. Floyd in a way he chickened out, he didn't give me the fight."

Khan gave his take on why he believes Mayweather elected not to take him on, looking in particular at Floyd's last fight against **Andre Berto**.

"Mayweather's very beatable," Khan said. "If you look at when he fought Berto, he was making a few mistakes, he was getting caught a lot, something I've never seen before. But maybe the age is getting to him, maybe that's why he's called it a day and maybe that's one of the reasons why he didn't fight me."

BURNS' TARGET

MONDAY, October 12, 2015

RICKY BURNS announces plans to tackle Australian **Josh King** at the Echo Arena in Liverpool on November 7. The Scotsman can pick up the WBO Inter-Continental lightweight title with victory, and the former champion is relieved his career isn't over after a series of disappointing results left his reputation in tatters. However, a spirited effort in Texas against **Omar Figueroa** proved there was life in the old dog yet.

"This is my first championship fight at 135lbs since June 2014 and I can't wait to put myself back in contention for a world title," enthuses Burns about taking on King, a fighter ranked No.10 by the WBO. "The Figueroa fight was tough at 141lbs but I feel like I boxed well. It's a great time for the division in Britain and I'm right in the mix. Obviously I'd like to win my old [WBO lightweight] belt back and this fight will give me a great ranking with the WBO but I would fight anyone in the country or the world."

‘IT SHOULD BE A GOOD GUIDE, AND I’M GOING OUT THERE TO FLATTEN HIM’



REVENGE ON MIND

TUESDAY, October 13, 2015

LIAM CAMERON is hoping a solid display this weekend – on the undercard of a solid Dennis Hobson bill topped by the Commonwealth flyweight title scrap between **Waleed Din** and **Thomas Essomba** at Rotherham's Magna Centre – will lead to a return with **Luke Blackledge**, whom he lost to in April. "It would be great to get back in with him, that's what I want," said Cameron [below]. "He'd have to box out of his skin again."

Cameron takes on **George Beroshvili** – stopped by **Martin Murray** in June – on Saturday night (October 17) on a card broadcast in the UK by Spike TV.

"I think the people that have beat him [Beroshvili] have been decent. Martin Murray has beaten him, and Murray's boxed [**Gennady Golovkin**]. It should be a good guide for me, and I'm going out there to flatten him."

DENISOV DEPARTS

BOXING NEWS are informed that Mikhail Denisov will be leaving the WBC. The Russian is a respected member of the sanctioning body's rating committee, and worked closely with Jose Sulaiman before his death. The official reason behind his departure is thought to be personal, but there are rumours that Denisov will remain in boxing.

GAVIN WANTS EGGINGTON IN DECEMBER

Photos: ACTION IMAGES

Frankie reveals all about his freak injury and when he plans to return, writes George Gigney

FRANKIE GAVIN hopes to fight **Sam Eggington** on December 12 after withdrawing from their original October 17 date with a foot injury.

The pair were set to meet for Eggington's British and Commonwealth welterweight titles at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham, where they were both born, but last week it was announced Gavin could not fight due to injury.

The former world title challenger revealed to *Boxing News* that his right foot was run over by a Tesco delivery van just over three weeks ago.

"I was just with some mates after the gym, I stepped out onto the road, my foot was only halfway off the kerb and the van just reversed into it. Luckily it wasn't going too quickly," he told us.

"I went straight to the hospital and had it x-rayed, there were no breaks but I had to have a few days off [training].

"I couldn't run. I had a couple of spars. In one of them with **Jason Welborn**, he stood on it and I could tell straight away it wouldn't hold up.

"I was gutted when it happened, I was more p**** off than anything. I had to make a call, I didn't want to leave Eddie [Hearn] stranded without an opponent for Sam with a week to go so I called him and told him."

The injury, which caused a fair bit of bruising and swelling, is almost fully healed now and Gavin hopes to face Eggington on the **Anthony Joshua-Dillian Whyte** undercard in London:

"It feels alright now but I've missed three weeks training. Hopefully I can get out in November and then fight Sam on



ONLY POSTPONED:
Eggington [left]
remains Gavin's
top target

December 12 at the O2 [Arena]."

"It would just be a six- or eight-rounder in November, I'm confident of being fit and healed up by then."

Eggington will still defend his titles, which Gavin himself has previously held, on Saturday but instead will face Wales' **Dale Evans** [see page 18].

Should Eggington prevail, the plan is

for him to meet Frankie in December and Gavin is not concerned about the Welshman pulling off an upset.

He said: "Fair play to Dale Evans for standing in but I don't think he'll beat Sam. If he does I'll just fight Dale [on December 12], or I might just move on. It's disappointing to not be fighting in Birmingham but there's nothing I can do."

REES HAPPY IN RETIREMENT

Gavin is keeping busy training youngsters, writes George Gigney

FORMER world super-lightweight champion Gavin Rees is enjoying life after retirement as he now spends his days moulding some of Wales' potential future stars.

The 35-year-old hung up his gloves after outpointing **Gary Buckland** in their violent rematch in May 2014.

Since then the Newbridge man has started training amateur boxers and gave *Boxing News* an update on how things are going.

"I'm loving it, it's my main focus now, there are about 20 kids I train," he told us.

"I've got three ready to go in the Welsh novices, we've got plenty of good kids. I'm really excited.

"I sometimes spar with the kids, but nothing too serious - it hurts! I'm enjoying sticking to the corner rather than being in the ring."

Injuries played a part in Rees' decision to retire and though he sometimes feels the pang of nostalgia, Gavin is solely committed to the youngsters in his gym.

"I love the sport, I wish I was training again but I'm not so I just pass on my knowledge to the kids," he noted.

"Maybe in two or three years if some of them want to go professional we'll consider that but for now it's just these amateurs. I've had a couple of offers to train pros but I turned them down. I'm not ready to do it yet."



FAMILY MAN: Rees [pictured with his daughters] has no interest in a comeback




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AFTER MAYWEATHER

Carlos Acevedo investigates the impact Floyd had on boxing – the good and the bad – and ponders what happens next



Ever a fighter personified what Don DeLillo once wrote about stardom – *Fame requires every kind of excess* – it was Floyd Mayweather. When Mayweather outpointed Andre Berto on September 12 in Las Vegas, Nevada, in a lackluster farewell, he put an ellipsis (not an exclamation point) on one of the most polarizing careers in boxing history.

With the exception of Oscar De La Hoya (who peaked before the social media revolution) and Manny Pacquiao, who is, after all, Filipino, no fighter in America has earned mainstream coverage like Mayweather has in the last decade. What makes his lurid/lucrative run over the last few years truly extraordinary is the fact that it began in the midst of The Great Recession, when disposable income had flatlined from coast to coast, along with the Dow Jones, the GDP, and the housing market.

In 2009, when Mayweather ended an 18-month hiatus by facing Juan Manuel Marquez, unemployment in the United States was hovering around 10 per cent, time-warping the nation back to the dreary early-1980s. Naturally, while millions across the country lost their homes to foreclosure or found themselves on the dole, Mayweather was parading his bottomless collection of wrist watches, luxury cars, and sneakers as often as possible. That Mayweather could sell one million pay-per-view units regularly during an economic crisis is a testament to his unique drawing power.

Whether or not Mayweather stays on the sidelines remains to be seen. If he keeps his word and retires permanently, however, his absence is certain to have an effect on the US fight racket. Will the sweet science in America turn into some sort of apocalyptic wasteland – like Pompeii buried under ashes – without Mayweather? Or will boxing, tenacious as ever, rebound from the loss of its biggest star?

Sudden Impact

Mayweather might have done some damage to the immediate future of boxing even before his fight against Berto took place. Despite the fact that Mayweather was the undisputed box-office champion in America for years, his humdrum finish may have

been proof that his act has finally faded. Most fighters use signature wins as popularity boosters. But Mayweather, in keeping with his ability to turn just about everything upside down, faced a backlash after his anticlimactic waltz against Manny Pacquiao on May 2. In the process, he may have alienated a significant percentage of the record 4.4m people who pressed “BUY” on their remote controls last May. His drab performance against Berto reportedly generated around 450,000 buys, a staggering drop-off from the record-shattering receipts of Mayweather-Pacquiao just a few months earlier and an indication that consumers retaliated with their wallets.

More important, occasional spectators may have turned their backs on the sport for good, which bodes ill for boxing in the short term.

“Some general sports fans who watched the mega-dud feel as though they were duped – rightfully so – and will never shell out their hard-earned money to purchase another big-time boxing pay-per-view event again,” says esteemed writer Doug Fischer. “However, others will catch some of the brightest talents of the next generation on TV and other entertainment platforms and follow those up-and-comers to major fights that eventually turn them into hardcore boxing fans. There’s always a couple of fighters who come around in each decade – from Mike Tyson and Julio Cesar Chavez to Roy Jones Jr and Oscar De La Hoya to Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao – that capture the imagination of casual fans.”

The Torch Factor

If there is anything truly significant about retiring undefeated, it may be the fact that Mayweather prevented an upstart from making a name for himself. One boxing ritual – the passing of the torch – is the final custom Mayweather refused to acknowledge in a career built on rebellion. Where Mayweather had Oscar De La Hoya for a

springboard to stardom, the current crop of fighters will have to double down to become luminaries in the future. Eric Raskin, who covers boxing for HBO, does not see the issue in strictly black-and-white terms. “In a perfect world for the business of boxing, Mayweather would stick around and get knocked out by Gennady Golovkin or Saul Alvarez in a massive PPV event, thus making his conqueror a household name,” he said. ➤



THE END: Mayweather's [right] win over Berto barely registers at the box office

WILL BOXING REBOUND FROM THE LOSS OF ITS BIGGEST STAR?



DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS:
Mayweather [left] went on
to break several records
after defeating the
ageing De La Hoya

► "But I think De La Hoya passing the torch to Mayweather (and Pacquiao) was something of a rarity. Muhammad Ali didn't pass the torch to Sugar Ray Leonard, who didn't pass it to Mike Tyson, who didn't pass it to De La Hoya. A new superstar can emerge without grabbing the torch directly from the previous superstar."

Will PBC help or hurt?

Not only will Mayweather leave behind a potential void, but his absence takes place during a tumultuous period in boxing. Premier Boxing Champions has thrown the industry into turmoil over the last few months and promises to continue to do so going forward. Although PBC has the largest platform available in boxing (over-the-air television) its effect, so far, anyway, has been largely theoretical. Its erratic ratings turned grim on September 26 when the Deontay Wilder-Johann Duhaupas mismatch on NBC returned an average of 2.2m viewers. (Compare that to *American Ninja Warrior*, which aired on NBC two weeks earlier and drew over six million viewers.)

One of the strangest paradoxes surrounding PBC is the fact that its nearly half-a-billion dollar war chest, raised through venture capitalists, is being spent on mediocre product regularly. Even bedraggled Vivian Harris – denied a license to fight by the BBBofC last year – has popped up on a PBC card that also included ossified Razor Ruddock (who turned pro when Dexys Midnight Runners were at the top of the pop charts), and limited Tommy Karpency, steamrolled by Adonis Stevenson in the pitiful main event recently

'DE LA HOYA PASSING THE TORCH TO MAYWEATHER WAS A RARITY'

aired on Spike TV.

To make matters worse, PBC not only follows a slapdash matchmaking philosophy, but it also prevents top fights from taking place elsewhere because its vast stable of fighters cannot operate outside of league confines. The big question here is whether or not PBC will hurt boxing more than it will help in the future.

The Replacements

With its most visible athlete now gone, boxing will have to rely on its understudies to assume

top billing. But the elements that made Mayweather a phenomenon are going to be difficult to reproduce in the future. Simply put, there may never be another fighter like "Money". As an authentic Digital Age popcult supernova, Mayweather chewed up terabytes in cyberspace the same way Pac-Man devoured ghosts in arcades across the planet. Thanks to 24/7 and All-Access, his perpetual war between ID, ego, and superego became reliable click bait in the unending news cycle loop of the emoji era. Until his fiasco with Berto, however, his grip on the masses was as tight as a slip knot. "It's highly unlikely that anyone is going to step up immediately and sell pay-per-views or command mainstream attention on the level that Mayweather did," says Raskin. "Nobody is at that point yet, where you can envision him headlining a 2m-buy PPV in 2016. But I think Gennady Golovkin and Saul Alvarez both have the potential to reach that approximate level eventually if everything breaks the right way. Let's say both of them win their fall fights in



NEXT IN LINE?
Cotto-Alvarez
[above], and
Golovkin-Lemieux
[right]



style, and then they face each other next spring. It seems reasonable to believe the winner there emerges as the new face of boxing and becomes that guy who, like Mayweather and Pacquiao [pictured above, on right] for most of the last several years, can sell a million PPVs against any solid opponent."

By far the most logical candidate to cross over, Saul "Canelo" Alvarez has a potential star-making performance on tap when he faces veteran Miguel Cotto on November 21. By facing topnotch competition for most of the last two-and-a-half years, Alvarez, still only 25, has also demonstrated a trait that is becoming as rare as compact discs in the States: ambition. Since suffering his first professional loss (to Mayweather, in 2013), Alvarez has bookended a workmanlike decision over tricky southpaw Erislandy Lara with shootout KOs over Alfredo Angulo and James Kirkland. Add to his determination telegenic looks and an air of menefeghista and you have a compelling figure ready to step into the Mayweather breach immediately.

It goes without saying that Golovkin is as hot as a fighter can be without having had a defining win. Unfortunately for "GGG,"

his 'aw-shucks' demeanour outside of the ring has fooled no one. Indeed, Golovkin has inspired more than one hardened professional to admit trepidation about him publicly. Now, after three years in the US, Golovkin has raised his profile enough to headline his first pay-per-view against David Lemieux [see pages 16-17] and to star in a commercial for the Apple iWatch. But at 33, and with the PBC wall separating him from other contenders, Golovkin will have to seize his opportunity soon - and he may not have to wait long.

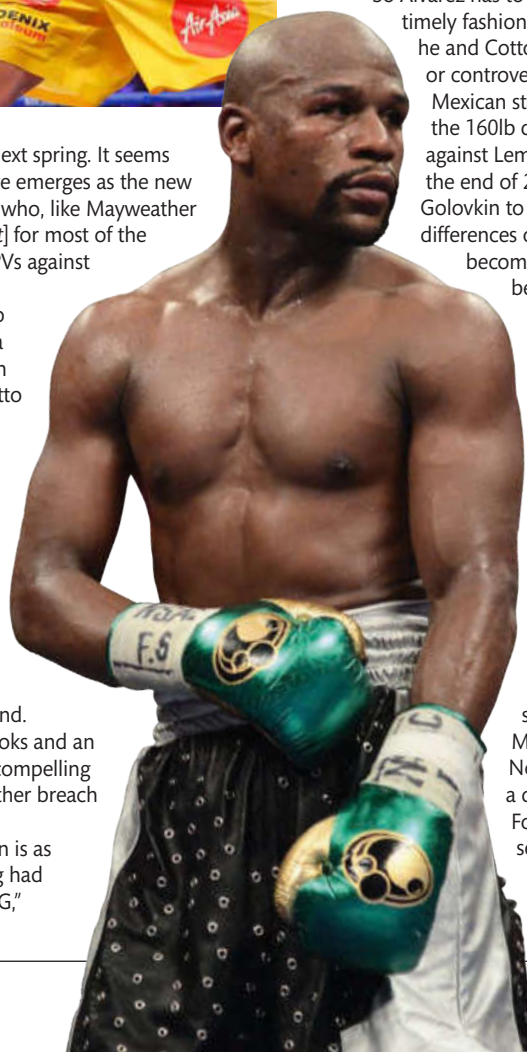
Finally, Andre Ward - the only man who holds a clear win over Carl Froch - is considered one of the top fighters in the world, but a dull style and inactivity have kept him from being a bona fide attraction. With just three fights since 2012, Ward is targeting Sergey Kovalev at light-heavy in hopes of resurrecting his commercial allure.

In fact, the marquee potential of all these fighters rests in their willingness to square off. "I think Alvarez, Golovkin, Kovalev and Ward have the potential to fill the star void," Fischer says. "However, they won't ascend to that role unless they fight each other."

So Alvarez has to beat Cotto and then take on Golovkin in a timely fashion. It doesn't have to be right away - maybe he and Cotto do it again if their first fight is close or controversial - but fans have to believe that the Mexican star isn't going to avoid the boogey man of the 160lb division. If Golovkin does solid PPV numbers against Lemieux and gets a crack at Alvarez before the end of 2016, he could become a star. If Ward gets Golovkin to step up to 168lbs and they battle their differences out in the ring, the winner of that fight becomes a star. The winner of Kovalev versus Ward becomes a star. Bottom line: potential stars need each other to realise their potential as fighters and attractions."

Other notable possibilities for mass appeal include Terence Crawford, the dynamic super-lightweight with solid support in Nebraska; bloodthirsty light-heavy Kovalev; erudite power puncher Keith Thurman; and Wilder, the charismatic heavyweight with a wrecking ball right hand.

In America, boxing thrives on reinvention - those grail-hungry men in blighted gyms searching for some form of distinction - and regeneration - the promise that one new dream will supersede a dead one. Not even the loss of Muhammad Ali could snuff out boxing. Nor will the absence of Mayweather, already a distant past in a here-and-now pursuit. For a beleaguered sport often hell-bent on self-destruction in a country with limitless leisure just a click or two away, the future is always just beginning. **BN**



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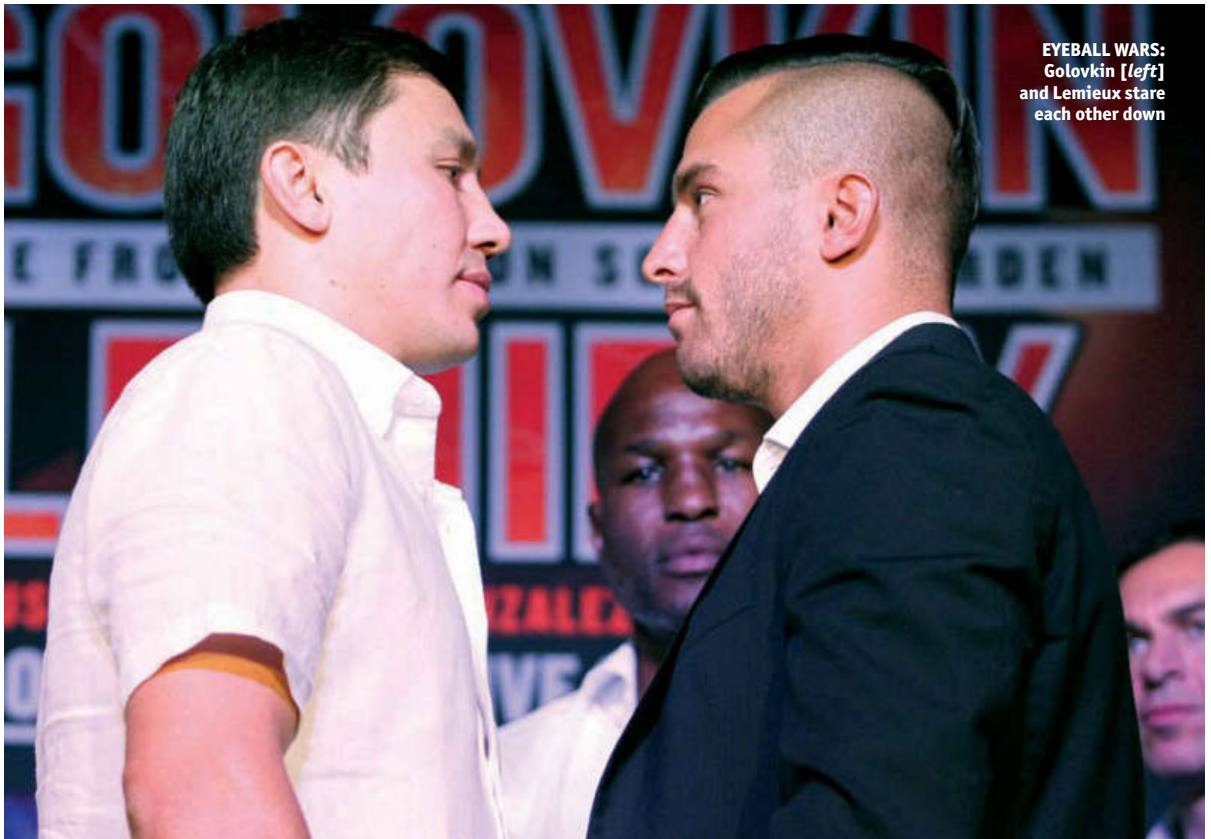
★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ FAIR ★★★★★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

The star ratings indicate how well the writer believes the fighters match up, the fight(s)' contextual significance, and how good the fight(s) will be

STOP... HAMMER TIME

Photo: HOGAN PHOTOS

Golovkin and Lemieux bring power, titles, and intrigue to New York as the race to replace Mayweather begins, writes **Matt Christie**



EYEBALL WARS:
Golovkin [left]
and Lemieux stare
each other down

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT
★★★★★ UNDERCARD



As explained over the previous pages, the sport of boxing has lost its leader. Whether Floyd Mayweather's retirement is permanent or not there is a gaping hole/opportunity waiting to be filled by a superstar in waiting. The auditions begin this Saturday (October 17) when middleweight slayers **Gennady Golovkin** and **David Lemieux** clash in a bout that could be a heart-pumping, can't-blink-won't-blink barnburner. If that's not endorsement enough, three 160lb belts – Lemieux's IBF, Golovkin's WBA Super and Interim WBC – will be at stake inside Madison Square Garden in New York.

Hardened boxing fans will know all about Golovkin and his incredible

ability to hunt down his opponents and beat the hell out of them. The Kazakh hides his psychotic tendencies very well beforehand; smiling at his rivals like he's meeting the in-laws for the first time, "GGG" always oozes respect.

"He feels like a champion and this is a unification fight," Golovkin says about Lemieux. "I think he is ready for a unification fight and he understands the situation. He is smarter now because of his experience in his recent fights. Right now he feels better because he has a stronger team. He gets to talk with Oscar [De La Hoya, his promoter] and Bernard [Hopkins]... Right now he is acting like a star and of course he is a star."

The endorsement of his opponent is worthy, and the Canadian arguably hits every bit as hard as the favourite. However, there are two glaring losses on his record that highlight the flaws in the slugger, and will likely prevent any serious money being laid on the upset. The Montreal resident began his professional life at super-welterweight in 2007, and

TALE OF THE TAPE

GENNADY GOLOVKIN	DAVID LEMIEUX
@GGGBoxing	@lemieuxboxing
Apr 8, 1984/33	DOB/AGE Dec 22, 1988/26
Los Angeles, CA	HOMETOWN Montreal
Kazakh	NATIONALITY Canadian
5ft 10 1/2ins	HEIGHT 5ft 9 1/2ins
70ins	REACH 70ins
33-0 (30)	RECORD 34-2 (31)
Orthodox	STANCE Orthodox
May 6, 2006/22	DEBUT/AGE Apr 14, 2007/18
91	KO PERCENTAGE 86
0	12-ROUNDERS COMPLETED 2

thundered through a selection of delicate opposition with eye-catching brutality. The ease of his victories demanded improvement and it came in 2010 when the fading but usually sturdy Walid Smichet was knocked out in two rounds. A further three gatekeeper-types – Hector Camacho Snr, Elvin Ayala, Purnell Gates – were all dismissed with ease and Lemieux was ready for a serious test. Mexican Marco Antonio Rubio looked

to be the perfect foil; durable enough to go a few rounds, but not potent enough to win. What poppycock. The Canadian struggled after failing to halt his man early and was exhausted – and exposed – when his swollen body was hauled out of battle in the seventh. (Rubio, by the way, went on to be destroyed in two rounds by Golovkin). Another loss followed, this time over 12 rounds, to Joachim Alcine and it seemed that Lemieux – once a fearless wrecking ball – had been ruined.

But he rebuilt, initially against poor competition, before proving his worth by bravely venturing back into world class and coming out victorious; Fernando Guerrero and Gabriel Rosado were vanquished inside schedule before he claimed the vacant IBF title with a stirring points win over Hassan N'Dam N'Jikam in June this year. Finding that form, after such a disastrous spell, is incredible for a confidence fighter like Lemieux and will have strengthened his self-belief and mental toughness immeasurably.

"Yes, I do believe that I can win," Lemieux said. "I don't just believe it; I know what it takes to win. I'm going to win this fight because I know how to win. I know how to do this because of my experience; I know my abilities, and I know myself inside and outside the ring. I'm here today because of my great determination. I've come a long way and I'm proud to be here today to fight the Goliath of the middleweight division. Gennady Golovkin is a good champion; he has good values. But, in the ring you're not friends. It's two pit bulls going for the neck."

Lemieux can boast that he has been 12 rounds, and come back from defeat – two championship credentials that 33-year-old Golovkin is yet to prove. However, they have not been seen for good reason. His ability to cut down the ring is an underrated skill, and his movement – both in attack and defence – is another subtlety powering his incredible menace. Single shots are fired with accuracy, vicious combinations are sprayed with care, and the seek-and-destroy mentality behind it all is villainous to the extreme.

Golovkin is not unbeatable and regularly gets tagged on the way in but he takes a good shot – he claims to have never been down as a pro, amateur or in training – and even a puncher like Lemieux will have trouble landing the



TALKING POINT

THE last time a middleweight unification showdown of this magnitude occurred at New York's MSG it ended in a massive upset.

On that emotional night in September 2001, Bernard Hopkins stunned Felix Trinidad in 12.



kind of blast required for the upset.

Expect a firefight, though, with the underdog playing his part before the referee stops things as it becomes increasingly one-sided, probably around the eighth.

THE VERDICT Okay, this is not as eagerly awaited as Mayweather-Pacquiao but is almost guaranteed to deliver plenty of highlight reel moments. Enjoy!

FACE SQUASHERS: Both Golovkin [top right] and Lemieux [above left] bring show-stopping punch-power

UNDERCARD

SEVERAL educated figures in the game are already calling Nicaragua's **Roman Gonzalez** the best in boxing following Mayweather's departure, and with good reason. The WBC flyweight champion has also ruled over the two divisions below his current weight class while racking up a record of 43-0 (37) and is arguably the most complete fighter in the sport today.

That perhaps does not bode well for the excellent Waipahu, Hawaii's **Brian Viloria**, who challenges the 28-year-old on the New York card. Some are calling this one of the best lower-weight matchups in recent history but Viloria, 34, does not seem to be the same fighter of a few years ago and flyweights – so reliant on speed – rarely peak in their mid-30s.

Needless to say, the challenger disagrees. "I don't think 'Chocolatito' has ever fought a guy who could hit as hard as me, and who is a bit faster than anyone he's ever fought," said the Filipino-American.

"I think I possess a challenge for 'Chocolatito' in this fight, and I have the experience of being in big battles." The thinking here is that he's had a bit too much experience for a fight like this – he looked in decline while losing to the quality Juan Francisco Estrada in 2013 – and while Viloria will give it his all, it has the look of one of those entertaining albeit one-sided scraps. Gonzalez to win a wide decision over 12.

TROUBLE AFOOT

★★☆☆☆ MAIN EVENT

★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

B

RITISH and Commonwealth welterweight champion **Sam Eggington** was originally set to defend his titles

against former world title challenger Frankie Gavin in an intriguing clash of West Midlands fighters.

Both born in Birmingham, the pair were to meet at the Barclaycard Arena in the city for the belts Gavin had previously vacated. After Frankie injured his foot [see page 10] the fight was off and Eggington was in need of an opponent.

Wales' **Dale Evans**, a man who holds

Injury rules Gavin out of Eggington clash, so Sam gets Evans instead, writes George Gigney

a win over Sam, gamely stepped in. He was originally booked to fight John O'Donnell in December in an eliminator for the British title, but now has a crack at the prize itself.

Eggington and Evans met two years ago in the *Prizefighter* tournament during which Dale outpointed Sam over three in the quarter-final. After losing to Glenn Foot in the final, Evans went on to scalp Erick Ochieng and Mark Douglas, as well as picking up routine wins over journeymen William Warburton and Adam Grabiec. He then ran into unbeaten Larry Ekundayo in March, being stopped in five rounds.

He returned two months later to drop

former English champion Adil Anwar three times to earn a points win over eight rounds, his most recent outing.

After his loss to Evans, Eggington went on to pick up the Midlands Area bauble before entering another *Prizefighter* in 2014.

This time he would make it to the semi-final, where eventual winner Johnny Coyle beat him over three. His career has changed dramatically since then.

Not one of his seven subsequent fights have gone the distance and impressive

wins over Denton Vassell and Shayne Singleton catapulted Sam into title contention.

In May of this year he claimed the

TALKING POINT

FRANKIE GAVIN hopes that Eggington comes through and they can eventually collide on December 12. It might turn out to be Gavin's second consecutive PPV appearance.

Photos: ACTION IMAGES

REVENGE MISSION: Evans [left] clouts Eggington during their 2013 opener



vacant Commonwealth belt with a seventh round stoppage of Ghana's Joseph Lamptey, before adding the British title to his collection with an eight-round technical decision win over Foot. In what was a close fight on paper, Eggington showed a maturity beyond his years to outbox the bullish Sunderland man before an accidental clash of heads caused the fight to stop and go to the score cards.

At 5ft 11ins, Eggington is not especially tall but his long levers allow him to box from range and he has shown a diligent ability to stick to a game plan in recent fights. Although he can leave himself open at times, Eggington is improving with each fight.

A quicker starter, Evans was more suited to the *Prizefighter* format. However, the St Clears slugger is not as refined in his work and prefers to pressure opponents into mistakes on the front foot. As shown against Ekundayo, he frequently walks onto shots so expect Eggington to wear him down for a late stoppage.

Plenty of local talent will be on display on the undercard, such as unbeaten super-flyweight **Kal Yafai** who faces **Jason Cunningham** for the vacant British strap. Former IBF champion Paul Butler previously held the title and when promoter Eddie Hearn won the rights to stage Butler-Yafai for the belt, the Frank Warren-promoted man vacated.

Instead, Yafai will face former English and Commonwealth bantamweight champion Cunningham, who has only ever fought under 115lbs twice in his career.

A former Commonwealth champion himself, Yafai has been moved along



FOOT FETISH:
Eggington [right]
swarms all over Glenn

well though the majority of the former Olympian's opposition has failed to stretch him. A dominant 12-round decision win over former world title challenger Everth Briceno last year proved Kal can stay the course.

Doncaster's Cunningham has tasted defeat twice – narrow points losses to Ross Burkinshaw and Jason Booth last year – but the rangy southpaw is a competent operator, though too hesitant at times.

At 5ft 4ins, Yafai usually has to chop his opponents down to size but he does so with vicious body punching. Kal should be able to outwork Cunningham and could force a stoppage late on.

Matthew Macklin, another adept body punching Birmingham fighter, makes his first foray at super-welterweight for

TALE OF THE TAPE			
SAM EGGINGTON		DALE EVANS	
@eggington_sam		@DaleEvans_912	
Oct 15, 1993/22	DOB/AGE	Dec 9, 1991/23	
Stourbridge	HOMETOWN	St Clears	
English	NATIONALITY	Welsh	
16-2 (9)	RECORD	10-2-2 (3)	
Orthodox	STANCE	Orthodox	
Sep 14, 2012/18	DEBUT/AGE	Oct 29, 2011/19	
50	KO PERCENTAGE	21	

nine years against **Jason Welborn**. At 33 and having been in some demanding battles, Macklin's shelf life is limited but with the vacant WBC International strap on the line, he could earn himself a decent world ranking should he win.

That all three of Welborn's losses have been stoppages, two from body blows, does not bode well for the Tivdale man given Macklin's tendency to work downstairs, though the drop in weight could play a role. However, Matthew should be able to pick up a tough win inside the distance.

Two Midlands Area title fights are also set for the bill. **Craig Cunningham** squares off with **Lennox Clarke** for the middleweight version, while **Rob Hunt** and **Karl Wiggins** clash for the welterweight strap.

Unbeaten prospects **Gamal Yafai** (Kal's younger brother), **Cori Gibbs**, **Dan Breeze**, **Zach Parker**, **Jordan Cooke** and **Michael Rooney** also feature.

THE VERDICT Eggington should deal with late substitute Evans fairly easily.



EXPERT VIEW

GLENN FOOT
HAS FOUGHT
BOTH MEN

EGGINGTON'S come on loads in his past few fights and Evans is taking the fight on short notice.

Evans' best chance of winning the fight will be in the first five rounds. He's just a come forward fighter so he'll try and bully Eggington, rough him up. During those five rounds he'll have a puncher's chance but that's it.

After five, it's Eggington's fight to lose and I think Evans will have gassed himself out and Sam should stop him late on.



DUCK AND COVER:
Yafai [right]
bullies Briceno
in Dublin

FAMILIAR TERRITORY: Cleverly [left] is back at light-heavy after a spell as a cruiserweight

Photo: ACTION IMAGES



ROLLING THE DICE

Cleverly looks to take the path less travelled, writes George Gigney

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

EARLIER in his career, **Nathan Cleverly** was slated for not facing worthy opposition, particularly during his two-year stint

as WBO light-heavyweight champion (2011-13). The Welshman can only be commended for electing to face dangerous Pole **Andrzej Fonfara** this Friday (October 16) over 12 rounds.

Having returned to 175lbs after an unsuccessful six months at cruiserweight, Cleverly had the opportunity to fight WBA 'regular' world champion Juergen Braehmer in Germany but instead will travel to Chicago, Fonfara's adopted hometown, in a bid to rejuvenate his once-promising career.

An unbeaten world champion at the time, Cleverly's trajectory plummeted once Sergey Kovalev wrenched his belt from him inside four rounds in 2014.

After, Nathan made some significant changes. He left promoter Frank Warren for Eddie Hearn and piled on 25lbs of muscle to campaign at cruiserweight. After stoppage wins over Shawn Corbin and Alejandro Valori, Cleverly took on bitter rival Tony Bellew, whom he had outpointed at light-heavyweight in 2011.

Despite a spirited promotion – and the fight notoriously being aired on pay-per-view – the contest was a dud and a timid Cleverly looked poor in dropping a split decision. The future looked bleak but with time on his side, Nathan boiled back down to light-heavy

in May and stopped the overmatched Tomas Mann in 24 seconds.

His next test is a significantly sterner one. Fonfara is coming off of a career-best win – a surprise nine round retirement win over Julio Cesar Chavez Jr [pictured on opposite page] in April and in recent years has confirmed himself as one of the dangermen at 175. Prior to the Chavez win, the tough and busy Andrzej survived multiple knockdowns to take WBC champion Adonis Stevenson the distance – even dropping Adonis in the ninth.

Fonfara's stock is at its highest while Cleverly remains on the precipice of irrelevancy, but the 28-year-old insists he needs a high-risk fight such as this to produce his best work.

"Fonfara's a man in form, he's on

'IT'S A CHALLENGE I NEED AND IT WILL BRING OUT MY BEST'

'FONFARA IS A WORLD-CLASS OPERATOR AND CAN GET ME BACK TO WHERE I BELONG'



EXPERT VIEW

TONY BELLEW
HAS FOUGHT
CLEVERLY TWICE

IT'S a 50-50 fight. Fonfara isn't the biggest puncher, he's very similar to Cleverly but might be a bit stronger, but they mirror each other in style. Cleverly's got a really good chin and that will help in this fight because he's got a terrible defence. People think it's a good time to get Cleverly but I don't think so, he'll have a point to prove.

If I was a betting man, I'd edge slightly towards Fonfara and I think it would be on points, I don't think he can stop Cleverly. It could be a really exciting fight as well.

a good roll but it's a challenge I need, a tough fight. I believe the fight will bring out the best in me," he told *Boxing News*.

"He's a world-class operator and it will make me raise my game and get back to where I belong, at world title level."

Indeed, Fonfara's WBC International bauble will be up for grabs tomorrow meaning the victor will hold a lofty ranking with that governing body, thus a crack at Stevenson could await them.

More is at stake for the Brit, however. A loss could well spell the end for Nathan – it would certainly turn his world title ambitions into a pipe dream and he has a large audience to impress with Spike broadcasting in the US (Sky Sports televise in the UK).

Fonfara should also be praised for his involvement in competitive match-ups, having fought Chavez just under a year after losing to Stevenson – a 10-round decision win over Doudou Ngumbu came in between.

The fight is likely to be exciting as well. Both men have high work rates and brilliant engines and can take a decent shot, too. Neither has shown the sort of one-punch power which could end things early, but Fonfara, who grinds

his victims down, produces the more dangerous assaults.

His straight right hand is potent once he's found his range – it was the shot he dropped Stevenson with – while his lead left hook is also one to look out for. He rarely looks for a one-shot finish, preferring to pepper his opponents with quick combinations, though his punch variety is fairly limited.

Cleverly's arsenal is a lot more diverse. The tall Cefn Fforest man has a spearing jab but also works well on the inside where his left hook to the liver does damage. His main limitation is a propensity to get drawn into a toe-to-toe

battle and he is particularly easy to hit, especially when backed up.

To beat Fonfara, he will need to maintain a dogged output and offset Andrzej's rhythm with his jab.

Motivated and at a weight where he can utilise his athletic prowess, Cleverly will need to pull out all the stops to best his Polish adversary.

Fonfara can make things rough and force Nathan to draw on his considerable reserves but Cleverly should be able to earn a close decision on the cards.

The co-feature on this Warriors Boxing show sees Japan's **Kohei Kono** defends his WBA world super-flyweight title against countryman **Koki Kameda**.

Kameda will be vying for a world title in a fourth weight class, having recently signed with Al Haymon but this will be his second fight in the past two years while Kono himself has not fought for 10 months.

Despite his inactivity, Kameda should be able to prevail on the cards in a cracker.

THE VERDICT Cleverly is taking a risk but can get his career back on track.

TALE OF THE TAPE

NATHAN CLEVERLY	ANDRZEJ FONFARA
@NathanClev	@andrzej_fonfara
Feb 17, 1987/28	DOB/AGE Nov 4, 1987/27
Cefn Fforest	HOMETOWN Chicago, IL
Welsh	NATIONALITY Polish
6ft 1 1/2ins	HEIGHT 6ft 2 1/2ins
74ins	REACH 76ins
29-2 (15)	RECORD 27-3 (16)
Orthodox	STANCE Orthodox
Jul 23, 2005/18	DEBUT/AGE Jun 3, 2006/18
48	KO PERCENTAGE 52

VESTED BRILLIANCE:
Taylor is a
Commonwealth
Games champion



SCOTLAND'S NEW HOPE

Great things are expected of Josh Taylor, and John Dennen discovers how the Edinburgh hero plans to achieve them



SCOTLAND'S Josh Taylor won the Commonwealth Games last year in Glasgow. Now managed by Barry McGuigan and trained by the latter's son, Shane, he won his professional debut in Texas, on new stablemate Carl Frampton's July 18 undercard. Taylor halted Archie Weah in two rounds.

Next up on Friday (October 16) Josh will box for the first time as a professional in his Edinburgh hometown at the Meadowbank Sports Centre. His goal is to bring big shows and major title fights back to Scotland.

What was it like going over to Texas for your first pro fight?

It was good seeing all the big names in the game and I really learned about the top end of it, watching Carl [Frampton] and how he went about his business. It was a good learning experience for me.

The fight itself went well, it was easy enough... It was a learning curve. You always have to be ready, you always have to be alert. Because they're dangerous.

I was kind of tense the first round because of that cautiousness but I started relaxing and finding my range.

How has your style of boxing developed over the years?

Just more confidence, more experience and more confidence in what I'm doing. Now I've turned pro I'm just settling down a little bit more, taking a split second to place your shots and think about what you're doing instead of it being like a rush, a sprint. Everything's 100 miles an hour over three rounds. Just slowing it down a fraction and pick your shots better.

Have you been looking at the British super-lightweights?

The division's wide open. Obviously there are plenty of good fighters in there but the division's wide open. I don't want to be disrespectful to any of them but I believe I can go in and compete for titles very soon. I don't want to be rushed too quick and jump in too quickly but I don't want to be boxing too many journeyman at the same time. I want to be boxing live opponents and people that are coming to fight. I believe that's when I'll show how good I can be.

How has your training changed since joining Shane McGuigan?

They're more focused sessions, you get one to one time with Shane every day, I'm learning and developing and learning new

skills. My style's suited to the pros, I've always had the head-down-hands-up sort of thing. I think I've got a style which will adapt.

Were you tempted to turn over straight after the Commonwealth Games?

I had to get a few things sorted out with GB and that sort of thing. But that's all behind us now.

How high is your profile in Scotland?

I get recognised and people take an interest in my career as a professional. I'm getting plenty of support which is great and I can't wait to bring big nights back up to Scotland and big shows back to Scotland.

There's a few prospects coming through. It's looking good.

Who are you boxing on October 16?

Adam Mate, he's had 22 fights, he's won 17 of them, 10 stoppages as well. So he's got a decent record.

He's a decent opponent for my second fight. But it's a fight I believe I should win and I'm going to win. So I'm looking forward to it.

I'll go in and just box and take my time. Box to win, box to win the round and if I hit him with a good shot and the knockout comes I'll go for it and take it. So I don't feel under pressure.

Are previous Scottish world champions helping or supporting you?

I spoke to Alex Arthur a lot at the start of the Games. Got advice about pro boxing and stuff like that, he was very helpful.

I spoke to Dick McTaggart once at an ex-boxers do, he spoke very highly of my performance at the Games, so it was great.

Do you have any favourite fighters?

I like to watch Sugar Ray Leonard a lot. I like to watch the Venezuelan southpaw, Edwin Valero. I used to watch him all the time. Miguel Cotto as well, keeps his hands tight. I take little bits from them all and when I go to the gym, try to do it on the bags.

I just learn every day in the gym, watching the likes of Carl [Frampton], take a little bit from him.

What kind of things have you learned from Carl Frampton?

Just be ready to punch. His feet are always in a great position, so I like to watch his feet when he's on the pads or bags. The way he moves his head. His hand speed's unbelievable so I just like to watch him. He just settles down that little bit, because he's lighter than me, the way he settles down and moves his head - in the amateurs as well it's upright and fast. So that little bit of movement and timing, it's great to watch. I could watch him train all day.



EAGER TO LEARN: Taylor is a student of the game and studies Frampton in the gym

'I WANT LIVE OPPONENTS THAT ARE COMING TO FIGHT'

SHOT OF THE WEEK



THE FIRST OF HIS NAME

LIAM SMITH [third left] celebrates winning the WBO super-welterweight title – and becoming the first of his clan to snatch a global crown – alongside, among many others his brothers Paul, Callum and Stephen



ACTION

Reports from the best fights around the world

★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ FAIR ★★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

Reporters' star ratings for main events and undercards are based on in-ring entertainment, competitiveness and whether overall expectation was met

✚ MANCHESTER

OCTOBER 10

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

★★★★★ ATMOSPHERE



Gary Shaw
RINGSIDE

Manchester's **Terry Flanagan** needed any vindication of his status as the WBO lightweight champion following the manner in which he won it three months ago, the 26-year-old southpaw received plenty following his two-round demolition of American **Diego Magdaleno** at the Manchester Arena.

The Mancunian won the vacant title after a clash and tangle of arms left American opponent Jose Zepeda with a dislocated shoulder that forced him to retire at the end of the second round at Manchester Velodrome in July. Although delighted at being world champion, Flanagan admitted afterwards that he would have preferred to have won the world title via another route. That route was emphatically and sensationally taken on Saturday night.

Many commentators were convinced that Magdaleno would be Flanagan's toughest test to date. Trained by legendary coach Joel Diaz, until recently head trainer for Timothy Bradley, southpaw Magdaleno was the WBO No. 1 contender and had lost just once in 29 as a pro, a controversial split decision against talented Puerto Rican Roman Martinez in November 2013 for the WBO super-featherweight title.

Such facts counted for little however, as a supremely conditioned Flanagan destroyed the American in just over five-and-a-half minutes of sensational action.

Roared on by a passionate but not capacity crowd, "Turbo" won the first round by doing what he does best, keeping tight and not wasting too many shots unnecessarily. For someone with

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/CRAIG BROUGH

FEROCIOUS FLANAGAN: Terry [left] lays into Magdaleno, and forces the referee to step in [inset on facing page]



Flanagan and Smith prove their worth in world title fights

such wide experience in both the unpaid and paid ranks, Magdaleno started curiously, rolling very low at times, a tactic that saw his gloves touch the canvas halfway through the round when his wide stance caused him to slip.

The start of the second saw him slip to the canvas once more but, seconds later and following some tidy boxing from Flanagan, he was caught coming in swinging a wild

left. The resultant counter right hook from Flanagan sent Magdaleno's head spinning and he was dumped to the canvas legitimately for the first time.

Up quickly at the count of two, the American nodded to his corner that he was fine, but his work inside the ring quickly began to belie indications to his supporters outside it, as he came under severe pressure once more.

Maintaining his composure admirably, Flanagan caught Magdaleno with a series of solid jabs as the challenger looked to hold. A jab-left uppercut-left hook combination from the champion found its target effortlessly, before a clever double jab opened Magdaleno up for a

TALKING POINT

HUGE all-British fights could be on offer for Flanagan in the future with the likes of Kevin Mitchell, Anthony Crolla, Derry Mathews, Luke Campbell and Ricky Burns.

TURBO-CHARGED



Stalker-Evans

Liverpudlian looks unlucky in hometown

PAGE 29



Maccarinelli-Svacina

Enzo wins ahead of possible Jones clash

PAGE 31



Coyle-Faizy

A good night for Johnny in London

PAGE 33



STILL KING:
Flanagan celebrates
with his world belt



left uppercut that snapped his head back. Two further jabs, forcing him onto the ropes, were followed by a solid backhand that saw him hit the deck once more.

Up at 'five', Magdaleno convinced referee Terry O'Connor he could continue. Although the American's courage was admirable, apart from a swinging left and more desperate attempts to hold, he offered little apart from the ability to take further punishment from Flanagan that subsequently saw him down for a third time. Up at 'three', a frowning Magdaleno told O'Connor he was fine and, for a few moments, he fought back and

threw a number of shots himself, but the champion's purpose was set.

Another solid uppercut to the chin was the precursor for yet more sustained pressure and, with Magdaleno out on his feet, three more telling shots were enough for O'Connor to step in and wave it over at 2-38 of the round.

Vindication, if any were needed, had been found. On this performance Flanagan must be counted among the top lightweights in the world. A domestic showdown with Derry Mathews – also promoted by Frank Warren – possibly in December although more likely in the New Year, may be next.

The other main event on a solid bill saw Liverpool super-welterweight **Liam Smith** become the first of the boxing Smith family to win a world title by stopping New Jersey's ►

FLANAGAN MUST BE COUNTED AMONG THE TOP LIGHTWEIGHTS IN THE WORLD

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/CRAIG BROUGH

CLEAN CLOUTS:
Smith [left] lands a
sweet left jab, while
both men connect
at times [inset]



THE END IS NEAR:
Super Smith [left]
jumps with joy after
decking Thompson

► **John Thompson** in the seventh round after another efficient display of patient and composed boxing.

Admitting afterwards that he probably dropped the first two rounds as he tried to find a way to get under Thompson's long jab to the area where he is most effective, Smith seemed happy to bide his time as the taller American made the most of his distinct height and reach advantage.

Smith enjoyed some success when he got close to the visitor as the fight wore on – enjoyed being the operative word as there must be few more disturbing sights in boxing than to see a grinning “Beefy” cutting the ring down and taking an opponent's punches on his gloves in order to get near and throw the damaging body shots he is renowned for.

It wasn't a shot to the alluring target of Thompson's torso that started the American's demise however. A perfectly timed right to the head late in the third round snapped his head back and, Smith's advantage in power and thought underlined, this was the signal for the visitor to enter survival mode, a strategy that made the long-limbed American look decidedly more ragged as the rounds went by. His jab remained a threat, especially in the fifth when Smith seemed content to let him throw as many as he pleased but, apart from this, it was infrequent and, allied with the increasingly obvious lack of power the American had, it seemed only a matter

of time before the Liverpoolian took control.

This duly occurred early in the sixth when an overhand right was followed by an even more powerful left hook, thrown perfectly after rolling under a jab and right hand thrown by the American. Sensing the end was near, Smith looked ready to pounce but patiently waited for the right opening as Thompson pushed weak jabs and right hands out with no apparent purpose other than to prolong the inevitable.

A slip by Thompson was ruled just that by referee Marcus McDonnell, before Smith resumed where he had left off and, with little coming back in return, the visitor looked disorganised and ready to go as the bell sounded. Sensing he was close to victory, Smith roared to his fans as he walked back to his corner.

Kissing his right glove and making a sign of the cross as the seventh started, Smith's belief in his own ability was shown when the same glove rocked Thompson's head back immediately. The American held on only for a frustrated Smith to wrestle him to the canvas, but it was only a few seconds respite as the Merseysider began to walk him down with fiendish purpose.

Grinning as ever, Smith chased Thompson around the ring, connecting with a number of solid shots before a straight right to the head sent the American down in two stuttering stages. Sprawled on the canvas, he tried to stand



OUTCOMES:
Stalker [right]
and Evans fight to a
disputed draw, while
Catterall [inset, left]
outscores Putkonen



at 'five' but couldn't, and McDonnell waved it over with 1-44 of the round gone. It may be some time before Smith is relinquished of this belt.

Of the remaining contests on the card, the most absorbing but also the most frustrating was **Thomas Stalker's** clash with Welshman **Craig Evans** for the WBO European lightweight title.

Seen by many as a crossroads fight for the former GB Olympic boxing captain, Stalker had drawn one and lost one of his last three, but these had come at super-lightweight.

Dropping down a division, the Liverpoolian was looking for renewed confidence and, for many observers at least, he seemed to have found it with a clear victory over the tough Evans – who had lost a British title challenge to Scott Cardle in his last contest.

The early rounds were close, but as the fight progressed, the better work came from Stalker and, apart from a disputed knockdown that was ruled a slip by referee Steve Gray in the ninth, he looked to have won by a few rounds at least

with arguably the best performance of his career so far.

Evans took some heavy shots in the final round but hung on to hear the final bell and the announcement that scores of 96-94 by Dave Parris and 95-95 by Ingo Barrabas had handed him a draw few in the arena

agreed with. Judge Andre Van Grootenbruel gave the fight to Stalker by a far more reflective 97-93.

A run of four early stoppage wins came to an end for Chorley super-lightweight **Jack Catterall** as he

was taken the distance over 10 by Finland's **Jarkko Putkonen**. Content to box in bursts, Catterall was never in any real trouble and he won every round on all three judges' cards. Phil Edwards refereed.

Clitheroe's **Luke Blackledge's** defence of his Commonwealth super-middleweight belt against Grays' **Lee**

Markham was anticipated by many to be the fight of the night but, despite sterling efforts from both boxers, the contest never really caught fire apart from a dispute over replacement gloves for Markham at the end of the third

when his own were ripped.

The champion held on to the belt with scores of 116-113 (Terry O'Connor) 116-114 (Steve Gray) and 115-114 (Phil Edwards). Howard Foster refereed.

Belfast's **Ryan Burnett** warmed up for a British title shot against Jason Booth next month with a comfortable second-round stoppage win over **Robert Kanalas** to claim the WBO European bantamweight title. Steve Gray stopped the contest at 1-24 after the Hungarian had been down three times.

Judging by the number of Asian media representatives ringside, it looks a shrewd move by Frank Warren to sign India's 2008 Olympic and 2009 World bronze medalist **Vijender Singh**. A major Bollywood star, Singh's third-round stoppage of Rochester's **Sonny Whiting** was beamed live to India and watched by over 20 million. Technically superior, Singh's stoppage – a slip, counter, then a right hand – was textbook. Mark Lyson halted it at 2-08.

In an Ashton-under-Lyne derby, **Adrian Gonzalez** stopped **Jon Kays** in four to claim the WBO Inter-Continental super-lightweight title. Down at the end of the first, Kays visited the canvas again in the second and twice in the fourth. O'Connor waved it off after 55 seconds.

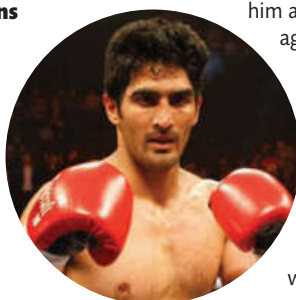
Bolton debutant **Jack Flattley** outpointed Lydney's **Lewis van Poetsch** over four, while the first contest on a long night of boxing saw Manchester's **Dale Coyne** claim a four-round points win over Hull's **Luke Allon**. Referee Mark Lyson scored 40-36 in both.

As Saturday turned into Sunday the final contest saw Manchester's **Jimmy Kelly** claim the WBO Inter-Continental super-welterweight title with a testy 10-round unanimous decision over tough Argentine **Martin Fidel Rios**, who was down in the second and third rounds. Mr O'Connor refereed. **BN**

THE VERDICT Flanagan must now be recognised as one of the best lightweights in the world.

FULL RESULTS

Terry Flanagan (135lbs), 29-0 (12), w rsf 2 **Diego Magdaleno** (134lbs 11oz), 28-2 (12); **Liam Smith** (153 1/2lbs), 21-0-1 (11), w rsf 7 **John Thompson** (152 1/4lbs), 17-2 (6); **Luke Blackledge** (167lbs 8oz), 20-2-2 (6), w pts 12 **Lee Markham** (166lbs 12oz), 14-3-1 (7); **Thomas Stalker** (134lbs 9oz), 10-1-2 (2), d pts 10 **Craig Evans** (134lbs), 14-1-1 (3); **Jimmy Kelly** (156lbs 2oz), 16-0 (7), w pts 10 **Martin Fidel Rios** (154lbs) 16-7-3 (8); **Jack Catterall** (139lbs), 13-0 (8), w pts 10 **Jarkko Putkonen** (139lbs 2oz), 12-1 (6); **Ryan Burnett** (117lbs 8oz), 11-0 (9), w ko 2 **Robert Kanalas** (117lbs 2oz), 10-5 (7); **Adrian Gonzalez** (134lbs 4oz), 12-1, w rsf 4 **Jon Kays** (134lbs 8oz), 21-5-1 (5); **Dale Coyne** (169lbs 8oz), 2-0 (1), w pts 4 **Luke Allon** (173lbs), 4-5-1 (1); **Vijender Singh** (164lbs 9oz), 1-0 (1), w rsf 3 **Sonny Whiting** (163lbs 10oz), 2-2 (1); **Jack Flattley** (163lbs 8oz), 1-0, w pts 4 **Lewis van Poetsch** (163lbs 8oz); 4-27.



SINGH'S VICTORY OVER WHITING WAS WATCHED BY OVER 20 MILLION



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BIG MACC ROLLS ON

Enzo warms up for potential Christmas cracker with Jones Jnr



Gareth Jones

RINGSIDE

NEWPORT

OCTOBER 10

★★★★☆ MAIN EVENT

★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

★★★★☆ ATMOSPHERE

ENZO MACCARINELLI successfully scraped off the rust in advance of a mooted Moscow meeting with Roy Jones Jnr, halting willing Czech **Jiri Svacina** in the fifth of a scheduled 10-threes at the Newport Centre.

The Swansea man, with a mere 48 seconds' action in the 18 months since his gallant challenge to WBA light-heavy boss Juergen Braehmer, showed patience against the gritty import, who provided him with much-needed ring time.

When Svacina took a heavy right in the first without flinching, it suggested he was not easily disheartened, but a bizarre incident in the second seemed to contradict that. The 38-year-old took a left to the ear and turned away, apparently thinking an eardrum had been punctured. A tap on his own head convinced him it was OK, however, and he moved to continue, referee Reece Carter thankfully allowing him to do so.

Enzo took the incident as a sign of vulnerability and launched an all-out attack which saw the Czech subside to a kneeling position late in the session, but he rose at 'eight' and the bell sounded.

The gangling Svacina looked awkward, but his movement made him difficult to nail and he was in no great difficulty for the next two rounds, even nodding in acknowledgement of a left which might have floored many.

But the fifth brought the finish. Maccarinelli followed a left hook with a vicious left to the now unprotected ribcage and Jiri crumpled in his corner. He was up at seven, but another shot in the same place sent him over again and Mr Carter waved it off without counting after two minutes of the session.

Svacina's performance reflected the theme of the night: 'opponents' who showed tremendous guts and gameness while heading for inevitable defeat.

Cardiffian southpaw **Mitch Buckland** became a two-weight Celtic champion



LEGEND-HUNTER: Maccarinelli [right] beats Svacina and eyes Jones Jnr next

when he outboxed Scot **Ally Black** to claim the vacant super-lightweight crown, having won the lightweight version two years ago. The younger brother of the now-retired Gary had given Black his first pro loss three months back with a fourth-round stoppage, but this always looked like a distance fight.

Ally, with an efficient left lead, kept his man at bay in the first three rounds, which were evenly contested, but from then on the traffic became increasingly one-way. Buckland's greater variety and high workrate allowed him to control matters, with the Kirkintilloch fighter confined to sporadic rallies.

He kept coming forward, however, and dug deep to wage a toe-to-toe war early in the ninth, but was unable to sustain it. Black, who ended with a swelling beneath his left eye, perhaps deserved closer scores than the 99-92 agreed on by judges Carter and John Keane, while Martin Williams was too wide with his 100-91 for the Welshman. Michael Alexander refereed.

Former Commonwealth light-middle king **Bradley Pryce**, now running his own gym at Abertysswg, ended a four-bout losing streak, overcoming a sluggish start to claim a 60-54 decision from Mr Williams against Trowbridge trier

Dan Blackwell, who defied a broken nose and a cut left eye to battle it out until the end.

Also over six-threes, two unbeaten prospects from the blossoming Gary Lockett stable showed immense talent. For the moment both Maerdy boy **Alex Hughes** and **Zack Davies**, from Gorslas, can be happy with clear verdicts over durable foes.

Hughes was a 60-54 winner for Mr Williams against Telford's **Kieron Gray**, who showed the true journeyman's love of the sport by grinning throughout a steady last-round assault, while Davies found an equally resilient rival in tattooed **Fonz Alexander**, from Newark, before emerging 60-55 up on Mr Carter's card.

In a four-threes show-opener Swansea's **James Todd** reappeared after two years to earn a 40-38 margin from Mr Williams against late sub **Mick Mills**, from Gillingham, who sprang into life in the second after being informed by a Todd supporter that his head looked "like a traffic cone". James, now 27, could usefully shed a few pounds, but will benefit from the outing.

THE VERDICT Warrior Promotions put on an entertaining bill, which deserved a bigger crowd.

FULL RESULTS

Enzo Maccarinelli (196lbs), 40-7 (32), w rsf 5 **Jiri Svacina** (193lbs), 12-17 (1); **Mitch Buckland** (139 1/4lbs), 10-0 (2), w pts 10 **Ally Black** (139 1/4lbs), 5-2 (2); **Bradley Pryce** (162lbs), 36-20 (19), w pts 6 **Dan Blackwell** (165lbs), 6-49 (1); **Alex Hughes** (166lbs), 6-0 (3), w pts 6 **Kieron Gray** (167lbs), 8-45-1 (1); **Zack Davies** (142lbs), 4-0, w pts 6 **Fonz Alexander** (141lbs), 3-19 (1); **James Todd** (166lbs), 4-2-1, w pts 4 **Mick Mills** (158lbs), 1-12 (1).

PEARCE BANKS A WIN

Photo: DAVE HAWLEY



PUSHING IT:
Pearce [left]
outworks Trizno

Another Hatton-coached fighter making his bow in the paid ranks was Market Harborough's tall **Reuben Arrowsmith**. In facing a none-too-easy baptism against Brighton's hugely experienced **Kevin McCauley**, Arrowsmith ultimately emerged a 40-37 four-round winner for referee Parker.

Taking a couple of rounds to find his feet, the jabbing Arrowsmith saved his best work for the closing session, during which he responded to McCauley beckoning him forward, with a nice variety of shots, the best of which was probably a right uppercut which preceded a left downstairs.

Cradley Heath lightweight **Manny Zaber**, who finished with a cut high above the left ear (the result of a late clash of heads), triumphed by a margin of 40-37 against Swindon's **Joe Beeden**. Lee Cook refereed what for the most part was a one-sided encounter.

Leek's **Andy Keates**, with a shot at Grimsby's Kevin Hooper and the vacant English lightweight title just a month away, stayed busy by besting Tamworth's **Matt Seawright** 60-54 in a six-tvos refereed by Mr Cook.

Matt picked up a warning in the third to keep his shots up, but he still kept tight to Andy's chest, denying him the room to operate at times.

Birmingham veteran **Jason Nesbitt** returned to the squared circle after a three-month absence and made it through to the final bell after two consecutive inside-the-distance losses, going down 60-54 to Stoke's **Kieran McLaren** in a six-tvos overseen by Mr Cook.

By the latter part of the second, McLaren was beginning to settle, and Nesbitt was forced to cover under fire in a neutral corner having been tagged by a combination downstairs and a precise uppercut.

Although there was less daylight between the pair in the middle rounds, Kieran extended

his lead late on. McLaren didn't have it all his own way though – Jason replied with intermittent looping rights.

Nesbitt is out again at Rotherham's Magna Centre on Saturday (October 17) against Chesterfield's Leon Field.

THE VERDICT Walsall fight fans are certainly getting their fair share of action at the moment.

FULL RESULTS

Steven Pearce (151lbs 5oz), 11-4 (4), w pts 6 **Arvydas Trizno** (152 1/2lbs), 21-46-2 (4); **Anthony Upton** (142lbs), 11-0 (4), w pts 8 **Liam Richards** (141 1/2lbs), 12-15 (1); **Manny Zaber** (135lbs 9oz), 3-0, w pts 4 **Joe Beeden** (133lbs 3oz), 1-29-1 (1); **Kieran McLaren** (143lbs 5oz), 5-0, w pts 6 **Jason Nesbitt** (148lbs 3oz), 10-188-4 (7) 1NC; **Andy Keates** (141lbs 3oz), 11-2 (1), w pts 6 **Matt Seawright** (149lbs 6oz), 5-123-5; **Reuben Arrowsmith** (158lbs) 1-0, w pts 4 **Kevin McCauley** (159lbs 2oz), 11-106-6; **Sam Evans** (151 1/2lbs), 1-0 (1), w rsf 3 **Zaurs Sadihovs** (145 1/4lbs), 4-6 (4).

Trizno loses every round against Steven



Andy Whittle
RINGSIDE

WALSALL

OCTOBER 10

★★★★☆ MAIN EVENT

★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

★★★★☆ ATMOSPHERE

BOXING returned to Walsall for the third time in five weeks, Banks' Stadium hosting a seven-bout affair. The nominal bill-topper, a six-rounder between **Steven Pearce**, of Stourbridge, and Lithuania's **Arvydas Trizno**, ended 60-54 in favour of the former.

Pearce challenges Kirkham's Adam Little for the English welterweight crown in Blackpool in December, but the score handed down to Steven by referee Kevin Parker doesn't tell the full story.

Trizno had not arrived merely just to make up the numbers, and pushed Pearce throughout, leaving him with a swelling below the left eye from a meaty right in the dying embers of the second.

That Pearce should run out victorious by such a wide margin is undoubtedly down to a superior workrate, and him staying on the front foot for the most part. Trizno's shots however, while less in number, seemingly carried more venom.

One third of the fighting Upton clan was in action. **Anthony Upton** improved to 11-0 with a one-sided eight-round victory over Melksham's **Liam Richards**, whose attempts at circling away from trouble were regularly frustrated by the switch-hitting Romford boxer.

Former English title challenger Richards increasingly held in the closing stages. This earned him several warnings from referee Parker, who scored 80-72.

Latvia's **Zaurs Sadihovs**, a regular first-round victor in his homeland, came a cropper 90 seconds into the third (set for four) against Wednesday debutant **Sam Evans**. Sadihovs, back-peddalling after being tagged by a series of body shots from the Ricky Hatton-trained first-timer, came under increasing fire, and was throwing nothing back. Mr Parker refereed.

**TRIZNO
HAD NOT
ARRIVED
MERELY TO
MAKE UP THE
NUMBERS**

Photo: PHILIP SHARKEY



YOUTHFUL VIGOUR:
Coyle [right] clubs Faizy
with an uppercut

COYLE TAKES TITLE

Johnny claims
WBC Youth
honours in a
familiar
setting



Simon Euan-Smith
RINGSIDE

⬮ BETHNAL GREEN
OCTOBER 10

★★★★☆ MAIN EVENT
★★★★☆ UNDERCARD
★★★★☆ ATMOSPHERE

It was a happy return to York Hall for Stanford-le-Hope's unbeaten **Johnny Coyle**, who clearly outscored Lower Darwen's **AJ Faizy** to take the vacant WBC Youth Inter-Continental super-lightweight title.

Coyle, who was appearing at the famous East End venue for the 10th time in 12 outings, had won the Southern Area belt here in his previous bout. Against Faizy he enjoyed success both as an aggressor and on the backfoot, ducking cleverly to make AJ miss, and then coming back with accurate counters.

After 10 entertaining rounds, the three judges scored overwhelmingly for Coyle – 100-89 (Robert Williams) and 100-90 twice (Jeff Hinds and John Latham). Although Faizy was outworked, the bout was never one-sided. AJ also looked slightly unlucky when referee

Ian John-Lewis took up a count in the sixth, when it appeared as though he had been wrestled over.

Southpaw Coyle made his intentions clear in the first, looking to cut loose. Faizy tried to hit back, but the session ended with a burst from Coyle.

Faizy decided to come forward but Coyle moved well, countered effectively and never lost his grip.

The other 10-rounder on this Matchroom bill saw **Ben Hall** (Chadwell Heath) take a technical decision over Doncaster's **Aston Jolly** in their English super-welter title eliminator.

Heads clashed in the seventh, and a cut appeared over Hall's right eye. Referee Jeff Hinds took him back to his corner – and, after a protracted examination, waved things off at 1-24. Hall duly got the verdict by 68-64.

Here too there was a disputed knockdown, with referee Hinds counting in the first after Hall appeared to have been bundled over. But Hall got revenge in the fourth, when Jolly was sent sprawling by a right hook.

This was another competitive match, where the loser contributed plenty, switching stances, taking part in good exchanges and raising a swelling on Hall's right cheek. But after the first, Hall generally looked in control.

Islington's **John Ryder** came back from his unsuccessful British middleweight title tilt in May and outscored Denaby's **Adam Jones** over six, referee Hinds scoring 59-56.

Ryder pressured all the way but Jones proved game, always looking to counter.

Reece Bellotti (Watford) halted Frenchman **Faycal Messaoudene** in the third of a scheduled six. Referee Robert Williams called it off after 1-59, with Messaoudene taking stick in his corner, not fighting back, and bleeding badly from the left eye.

Mickey O'Rourke (Slough) and **Danny Parsons** (Walton-on-Thames) served up a cracking six-rounder, with the former taking Hinds' 58-57 verdict.

O'Rourke made the stronger start, but Parsons had warmed up by the third – and after that there were great exchanges in every round. O'Rourke looked the more tired in the last, and was marked above the left eye and below the right.

Adam Salman (Morden) took the early initiative and survived a last-round rally to beat Alfreton's experienced **William Warburton**, referee Williams scoring their six-rounder 58-57.

Quickest winner of the night was Guildford's **Jake Ball**, who blew away Lincoln's **Mitch Mitchell** in just 1-34 of the opener. It was scheduled for four.

A right to the side of the head put Mitchell down, and although he was up quickly he was dropped by the ropes by a two-fisted burst. Again he was up at once, but another two-fisted attack put him down in a neutral corner, and referee Williams signalled the end.

The show started with a lively four-rounder between Brixton's unbeaten **Isaac Chamberlain** and Lithuania's **Igoris Borucha**. Chamberlain took referee Hinds' 40-36 verdict but Borucha had his moments in the first half.

Craig Richards (Crystal Palace) dominated Chadwell St Mary's game **Scott Douglas**, taking referee Williams' 40-36 verdict over four. Douglas was marked under the left eye in the second.

Bermondsey's **Ted Cheeseman** outscored **Victor Edagha**, of Southwark, over four, referee Hinds' 40-35 scoreline including a point deduction in the last for Edagha's persistent holding.

THE VERDICT A good small-hall show, thoroughly enjoyed by the crowd.

FULL RESULTS

Johnny Coyle (140lbs), 11-0-1 (2), w pts 10 **AJ Faizy** (139lbs), 6-2-1 (4); **Ben Hall** (153lbs 8oz), 7-0-1 (1), w td 7 **Aston Jolly** (154lbs), 7-1-1; **John Ryder** (166lbs), 21-2 (12), w pts 6 **Adam Jones** (162lbs), 5-11-4; **Reece Bellotti** (125lbs 8oz), 4-0 (3), w rsf 3 **Faycal Messaoudene** (126lbs), 6-24-1; **Mickey O'Rourke** (136lbs), 5-0 (1), w pts 6 **Danny Parsons** (135lbs), 1-2 (1); **Adam Salman** (154lbs), 7-1 (4), w pts 6 **William Warburton** (152lbs), 16-84-7 (3); **Jake Ball** (178lbs 8oz), 2-0 (2), w rsf 1 **Mitch Mitchell** (179lbs), 6-43-2 (2); **Isaac Chamberlain** (199lbs), 4-0, w pts 4 **Igoris Borucha** (198lbs), 10-33-3 (2); **Craig Richards** (167lbs), 2-0 (1), w pts 6 **Scott Douglas** (166lbs), 2-3-2; **Ted Cheeseman** (151lbs), 2-0 (1), w pts 4 **Victor Edagha** (150lbs), 0-5.

**COYLE MOVED WELL AND
NEVER LOST HIS GRIP**

The Natural



Lee Haskins talks **Elliot Worsell** through his mysterious beginnings, frustrations, and that unforgettable night he landed the perfect punch

F

OR the record, Lee Haskins has never really been a fan of boxing, nor has he ever really rated himself as a boxer. He didn't think he was any great shakes as a youngster and he doesn't believe he's particularly

special now, either. This despite the fact he currently holds the interim IBF bantamweight title, is unbeaten in three years, and has some overenthusiastic members of the fight fraternity already labelling him a 'world champion'. It's simply not enough; not enough to convince him of his status as a champion and not enough to convince him he's any good.

"I have to beat Randy Caballero [the reigning IBF bantamweight title-holder] to become a true world champion," said the 31-year-old, who won his interim crown in June with a brilliant sixth round stoppage of Japan's Ryosuke Iwasa. "I'm now one of the best in the division. That was proven against Iwasa. But I don't believe I'm a legitimate world champion yet.

"There are a few other British 'world champions' in a similar position - either interim champions or regular champions - and they are happy to pretend they are the real deal. But that's not me. I'll beat Randy Caballero [on November 21] and then call myself world champion."

Patience is, of course, something Haskins has by now mastered; he's been ready and waiting for much of his 12-and-a-half year professional career and has seemingly always been on the brink of some form of world title shot. It's also something he is willing to embrace, for the very notion of one day winning a world title was never even considered when entering Bristol's Empire Boxing Club at the age of 14.

"I never thought I was any good," he recalled. "I didn't know where this sport was going to take me ➤



THE BELTS: Haskins has the interim strap but Caballero [left] holds the full IBF title



PEAK FORM:
Haskins flattens
Iwasa in style

Photos: ACTION IMAGES

➤ and I certainly didn't expect to become a world champion or anything like that. To be honest, I don't even think I'm great now. It's just the way I box that wins fights. It works for me. People can't suss me out."

An only child raised by a single parent, Haskins is no stranger to doing things independently. He derives a certain gratification from it, in fact. It was what first led him to the gym. It was what originally motivated him to pursue a passion that had no obvious rhyme or reason.

"The funny thing is, long before I put on gloves, boxing was always something I wanted to do," he said. "Even to this day I don't know why. Nobody in the family had any history in boxing and it wasn't as if I was a big fan of the sport. I just always fancied giving it a go. I tried karate, but that wasn't hands on enough for me. Maybe boxing was just something I was destined to do."

His mother, Claire, guided him in the direction of the gym, and handed him the necessary blessing, and Haskins swiftly fell in love with the sights and sounds of kids whacking punch bags and channeling their aggression in the form of regulated sparring sessions.

Then, just two weeks after joining Empire, Haskins, all ungainly movements and



CLASS ABOVE:
Haskins [right] slams a
left through Hall's guard

agricultural lunges, was told he could spar for the first time. There was no need for him to be asked twice. Better still, a week after that, the new boy in the gym was stuffed into a head-guard and told to fight – for real.

"I had no idea what I was doing," he said. "I still don't know what I'm doing now, to be fair. I just train hard, get in the ring

and then whatever happens, happens. There is no game plan, no thought process. And I've never been too fussed about the fundamentals. In fact, I never really know which Lee Haskins is going to turn up."

A law unto himself, Haskins' complete disregard for the textbook was never likely to satisfy amateur coaches or judges and so, upon turning 19, having only had 15 amateur bouts, the wild man of the West Country decided to turn pro and start making a living.

Now was the time to truly let it all hang out. No longer did he have the stern voices of strict disciplinarians ringing in his ears; stand straight, hands up, get the jab going, don't jump in. He was essentially his own boss, a freelance fighter, and if he wanted to bob when common sense said weave, so be it. There was, after all, no template to follow. Not for Haskins, anyway.

"My style wasn't based on any other boxer," he said. "I never used to watch boxing and I didn't have any role models or idols. I didn't know of any boxers."

"I started boxing and my style just came about naturally. It was just the way I moved. Everybody has got a natural style and a natural way of moving before they go to the gym, but they then get taught a certain way. Well, the difference between me and everyone else is that I never let anyone show me a different way to box. I stuck with the ideas in my head."

"The amateur trainers tried to amend my style, and I did try and do the whole hands-up, straight lines thing, but I never liked it. I just couldn't do it."

Haskins turned professional in March 2003 and won his first 15 bouts in a row, landing the Commonwealth flyweight title in the process, but then bumped into gangly Commonwealth bantamweight champion Tshifhiwa Munyai and found his flaws exposed with a magnifying glass, holes in his game ripped open for all to see. South African Munyai, bigger and stronger, taught an ill-prepared Haskins a valuable lesson, stopping him in six. It got worse before it got better, too. The following year, in September 2007, Haskins suffered another setback when retiring on his stool after seven rounds in the company of Ian Napa. It seemed



SCRAPPY:
Haskins, particularly
against Broadhurst
[right], is not always
pretty to watch

bantamweight and Haskins weren't exactly a perfect marriage.

He persisted, though, and ended up beating current WBA 'regular' world bantamweight champion Jamie McDonnell in his very next fight – outpointing him over eight rounds – before dropping down to super-flyweight to snare British, Commonwealth and European titles, conquering the likes Andy Bell, Ross Burkinshaw, Don Broadhurst and Stuart Hall along the way. He also managed to win a *Prizefighter* tournament in 2011, beating Broadhurst for a second time in the final.

But then a defeat to Stephane Jamoye in 2012 cost him his European bantamweight title and appeared to dash all hope of glory on the world stage. It seemed to highlight his level, momentum came to a grinding halt, and he'd have been well within his rights to wave the sport goodbye.

Instead, the loss became a significant turning point in Haskins' career and, since that night three years ago in Liege, Belgium, when stopped by Jamoye in eight rounds, Haskins has been near faultless. He's won six fights on the spin, bagged another British title, regained his European title, and in June lifted his current strap with a stunning knockout win over Iwasa.

"It was a great night for me and my family," he said. "It was an amazing opportunity and I went out there and shone. You dream of nights like that – everything coming together at the right time.

"I visualised it going like that. That's the way I wanted it to go. I wanted it to end quickly and emphatically. Obviously, though, deep down I thought it would be a lot closer and probably go to a decision. Iwasa is a great fighter; he's durable and he's quite measured. I thought I'd have to beat him over the distance.

"But, to my surprise, I found him quite easy to hit and I wobbled him a lot. I wobbled him in the first round, which is a great feeling for any fighter. You take a lot of confidence from that.

"He would have got better and better as the fight went on, I'm sure. You could see what he was trying to do. He wanted to drown me in

SMACKER:
Haskins plants
a kiss on the
Prizefighter
trophy



HARSH LESSON:
Munyai [right] inflicts
Haskins' first pro defeat

“ YEARS AGO I'D GO OUT WITH FRIENDS AND SKIP TRAINING EVEN IF I HAD A FIGHT COMING UP IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS ”

the second half of the fight. But that was never going to happen."

Haskins admits he's watched the fight back "a thousand times" and that his youngest son, Acelee, often begs him to put it on the television screen in their Bristol home. "He loves the fight," said Lee. "He keeps asking me to put it on all the time. And, although I don't argue too strongly, even I've got bored of it now."

In truth, never will he tire of seeing his pivotal left hand crack the tip of Iwasa's chin and dissolve the Japanese man at centre ring. It was the kind of home-run shot that would likely end any fight, irrespective of the round in which it lands, or the sturdiness of the chin on which it connects. It was simply a perfect shot thrown at the perfect time, a time when Iwasa, down on the cards, appeared to be coming on strong and looking to gain a foothold. "It was the best shot I've thrown in my life, no doubt," said Haskins, 32-3 (14). "I can hit quite hard for the weight and we were working on me planting my feet a bit more and having belief in my power.

"I did that from round one and it quickly made an impression on him. It was just a matter of time, I thought. I knew it was over as soon as I landed the shot. I took one look at him in the corner and

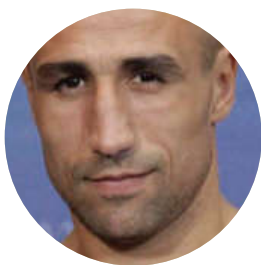
his legs were wobbly and his eyes were all over the place. I knew I had to put it on him straight away and finish the job."

He did. And so completed the incredible turnaround from forgotten man of the lower weight classes to genuine player on the world stage. Even the confusing nature of the belt he'd just acquired couldn't disguise the greater truth that emerged from the contest; Lee Haskins was back and arguably better than ever. "For a while I wasn't putting on great performances and they wouldn't put me on TV," he said. "That started to get me down a bit. I questioned myself and wondered whether I should carry on or not.

"But I stuck with it and it turned around for me. I always knew I could be one of the best boxers in the division and I've been getting better and better these last few years. I'm now dedicating myself to the sport more than ever before and it's paying off.

"Years ago I'd go out with friends all the time and I'd skip training, even if I had a fight coming up in a couple of weeks. But my life has changed completely now. I've matured. I've grown up. I've got a wife (Claire) and three kids (Acelee, Anton and Nadine) to support. I need boxing in my life and I need to be a success."

The day after knocking out Iwasa, Haskins packed his bags and fled to Magaluf for a friend's stag-do. He let his hair down. He toasted his memorable victory. He may have even blown up in weight. But far better to do it then than a few weeks before his next fight, as had once been his custom. Rest assured, Lee Haskins is reformed, refocused and rejuvenated. And, if not quite yet a world champion, is now very, very good. **BN**



HEAVYWEIGHT

over 200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** 64-3 (UKR)
- 2 **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** 29-1 (RUS)
- 3 **DEONTAY WILDER** 35-0 (USA)
- 4 **KUBRAT PULEV** 20-1 (BGR)
- 5 **VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV** 21-0-1 (UKR)
- 6 **BERMANE STIVERNE** 24-2-1 (CAN)
- 7 **CARLOS TAKAM** 32-2-1 (CMR)
- 8 **TONY THOMPSON** 40-5 (USA)
- 9 **TYSON FURY** 24-0 (ENG)
- 10 **BRYANT JENNINGS** 19-1 (USA)

CRUISERWEIGHT

200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI** 25-0 (POL)
- 2 **MARCO HUCK** 38-3-1 (GER)
- 3 **GRIGORY DROZD** 40-1 (RUS)
- 4 **DENIS LEBEDEV** 27-2 (RUS)
- 5 **VICTOR EMILIO RAMIREZ** 22-2-1 (ARG)
- 6 **OLA AFOLABI** 21-4-4 (ENG)
- 7 **FIRAT ARSLAN** 35-8-2 (GER)
- 8 **RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV** 24-1 (RUS)
- 9 **ILUNGA MAKABU** 19-1 (COD)
- 10 **TONY BELLEW** 25-2-1 (ENG)

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT

175lbs/12st 7lbs

- 1 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 28-0-1 (RUS)
- 2 **ADONIS STEVENSON** 27-1 (CAN)
- 3 **BERNARD HOPKINS** 55-7-2 (USA)
- 4 **JEAN PASCAL** 30-3-1 (CAN)
- 5 **JUERGEN BRAEHMER** 47-2 (GER)
- 6 **ANDRZEJ FONFARA** 27-3 (POL)
- 7 **ARTUR BETERBIEV** 9-0 (RUS)
- 8 **ISAAC CHILEMBA** 24-2-2 (MAW)
- 9 **ANDRE WARD** 28-0 (USA)
- 10 **ELEIDER ALVAREZ** 18-0 (COL)

SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT

168lbs/12st

- 1 **JAMES DeGALE** 21-1 (ENG)
- 2 **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** 43-4 (GER) *[above]*
- 3 **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** 47-5-1 (GER)
- 4 **BADOU JACK** 20-1-1 (SWE)
- 5 **GEORGE GROVES** 21-3 (ENG)
- 6 **ANTHONY DIRRELL** 28-1-1 (USA)
- 7 **FEDOR CHUDINOV** 14-0 (RUS)
- 8 **ANDRE DIRRELL** 24-2 (USA)
- 9 **FELIX STURM** 39-5-3 (GER)
- 10 **GILBERTO RAMIREZ** 32-0 (MEX)



MIDDLEWEIGHT

160lbs/11st 6lbs

- 1 **MIGUEL COTTO** 40-4 (PRI)
- 2 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 33-0 (KAZ)
- 3 **PETER QUILLIN** 32-0-1 (USA)
- 4 **ANDY LEE** 34-2-1 (IRL)
- 5 **DAVID LEMIEUX** 34-2 (CAN)
- 6 **DANIEL GEALE** 31-4 (AUS)
- 7 **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM** 31-2 (FRA)
- 8 **DANIEL JACOBS** 30-1 (USA)
- 9 **BILLY JOE SAUNDERS** 22-0 (ENG)
- 10 **CHRIS EUBANK JNR** 19-1 (ENG)

SUPER-WELTERWEIGHT

154lbs/11st

- 1 **SAUL ALVAREZ** 45-1-1 (MEX)
- 2 **ERISLANDY LARA** 21-2-2 (CUB)
- 3 **AUSTIN TROUT** 30-2 (USA)
- 4 **JERMALL CHARLO** 22-0 (USA)
- 5 **JERMELL CHARLO** 26-0 (USA)
- 6 **VANES MARTIROSYAN** 36-2-1 (USA)
- 7 **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE** 34-6 (USA)
- 8 **CARLOS MOLINA** 23-6-2 (USA)
- 9 **ISHE SMITH** 27-8 (USA)
- 10 **WILLIE NELSON** 24-2-1 (USA)

WELTERWEIGHT

147lbs/10st 7lbs

- 1 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-6-2 (PHL)
- 2 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 32-1-1 (USA)
- 3 **KELL BROOK** 35-0 (ENG)
- 4 **AMIR KHAN** 31-3 (ENG)
- 5 **SHAWN PORTER** 26-1-1 (USA) *[above]*
- 6 **MARCOS MAIDANA** 35-5 (ARG)
- 7 **KEITH THURMAN** 26-0 (USA)
- 8 **ROBERT GUERRERO** 33-3-1 (USA)
- 9 **DANNY GARCIA** 31-0 (USA)
- 10 **BRANDON RIOS** 33-2-1 (USA)

SUPER-LIGHTWEIGHT

140lbs/10st

- 1 **VIKTOR POSTOL** 28-0 (UKR)
- 2 **LUCAS MATTHYSSE** 37-4 (ARG)
- 3 **LAMONT PETERSON** 33-3-1 (USA)
- 4 **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV** 24-4 (RUS)
- 5 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 26-0 (USA)
- 6 **ADRIEN BRONER** 31-2 (USA)
- 7 **JOSE BENAVIDEZ** 23-0 (USA)
- 8 **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** 19-2 (RUS)
- 9 **MAURICIO HERRERA** 22-5 (USA)
- 10 **CESAR RENE CUENCA** 48-0 (ARG)



LIGHTWEIGHT

135lbs/9st 9lbs

- 1 **JORGE LINARES** 40-3 (VEN)
- 2 **TERRY FLANAGAN** 29-0 (ENG)
- 3 **KEVIN MITCHELL** 39-3 (ENG)
- 4 **DEJAN ZLATICANIN** 21-0 (MNE)
- 5 **YURIORKIS GAMBOA** 24-1 (CUB)
- 6 **ARGENIS MENDEZ** 23-3-1 (DOM)
- 7 **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** 35-5 (MEX)
- 8 **DENIS SHAFIKOV** 36-1-1 (RUS)
- 9 **DARLEYS PEREZ** 32-1-1 (COL)
- 10 **ANTHONY CROLLA** 29-4-3 (ENG)

SUPER-FEATHERWEIGHT

130lbs/9st 4lbs

- 1 **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** 23-0-1 (JPN)
- 2 **TAKASHI MIURA** 29-2-2 (JPN)
- 3 **FRANCISCO VARGAS** 22-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **JAVIER FORTUNA** 29-0-1 (DOM)
- 5 **BRYAN VASQUEZ** 34-2 (CRI)
- 6 **SERGIO THOMPSON** 30-4 (MEX)
- 7 **ROMAN MARTINEZ** 29-2-3 (PRI)
- 8 **ORLANDO SALIDO** 42-13-3 (MEX)
- 9 **EDEN SONSONA** 34-6-2 (PHL)
- 10 **JOSE PEDRAZA** 20-0 (PRI)

FEATHERWEIGHT

126lbs/9st

- 1 **NICHOLAS WALTERS** 26-0 (JAM)
- 2 **VASYL LOMACHENKO** 4-1 (UKR)
- 3 **GARY RUSSELL JNR** 26-1 (USA)
- 4 **LEO SANTA CRUZ** 31-0-1 (MEX)
- 5 **SIMPIWE VETYEKA** 27-3 (RSA)
- 6 **ABNER MARES** 29-2-1 (MEX)
- 7 **LEE SELBY** 21-1 (WAL)
- 8 **EVGENY GRADOVICH** 20-1-1 (RUS)
- 9 **JAYSON VELEZ** 23-0-1 (PRI)
- 10 **JESUS CUELLAR** 27-1 (ARG)

SUPER-BANTAMWEIGHT

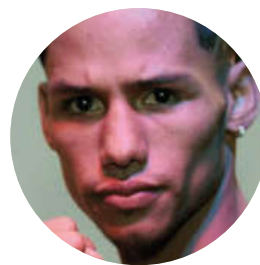
122lbs/8st 10lbs

- 1 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 15-0 (CUB)
- 2 **SCOTT FRAMPTON** 21-0 (NIR)
- 3 **CARL QUIGG** 31-0-2 (ENG)
- 4 **NONITO DONAIRE** 35-3 (PHL)
- 5 **KIKO MARTINEZ** 32-6 (SPA)
- 6 **GENESIS SERVANIA** 26-0 (PHL)
- 7 **ALBERT PAGARA** 24-0 (PHL)
- 8 **REY VARGAS** 25-0 (MEX)
- 9 **JULIO CEJA** 30-1 (MEX)
- 10 **MANUEL AVILA** 18-0 (USA)

BANTAMWEIGHT

118lbs/8st 6lbs

- 1 **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA** 24-0-2 (JPN)
- 2 **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO** 17-0 (DOM)
- 3 **ANSELMO MORENO** 35-4-1 (PAN)
- 4 **JAMIE McDONNELL** 27-2-1 (ENG)
- 5 **TOMOKI KAMEDA** 31-2 (JPN)
- 6 **RANDY CABALLERO** 22-0 (USA)
- 7 **LEE HASKINS** 32-3 (ENG)
- 8 **PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU** 51-3 (THA)
- 9 **RODRIGO GUERRERO** 23-5-1 (MEX)
- 10 **RAU'SHEE WARREN** 13-1 (USA) *[above]*



SUPER-FLYWEIGHT

115lbs/8st 3lbs

- 1 **NAOYA INOUE** 8-0 (JPN)
- 2 **OMAR ANDRES NARVAEZ** 44-2-2 (ARG)
- 3 **CARLOS CUADRAS** 33-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI** 36-4-1 (THA)
- 5 **ZOLANI TETE** 21-3 (RSA)
- 6 **KOHEI KONO** 30-8-1 (JPN)
- 7 **NORBERTO JIMENEZ** 22-8-4 (DOM)
- 8 **LUIS CONCEPCION** 33-4 (PAN) *[above]*
- 9 **McJOE ARROYO** 17-0 (PRI)
- 10 **DAVID SANCHEZ** 28-3-2 (MEX)

FLYWEIGHT

112lbs/8st

- 1 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 43-0 (NIC)
- 2 **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA** 33-2 (MEX)
- 3 **AMNAT RUENROENG** 16-0 (THA)
- 4 **BRIAN VILORIA** 36-4 (USA)
- 5 **KAZUTO IOKA** 18-1 (JPN)
- 6 **JUAN CARLOS REVECO** 36-2 (ARG)
- 7 **MORUTI MTHALANE** 31-2 (RSA)
- 8 **AKIRA YAEHASHI** 22-5 (JPN)
- 9 **EDGAR SOSA** 51-9 (MEX)
- 10 **McWILLIAMS ARROYO** 16-2 (PRI)

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT

108lbs/7st 10lbs

- 1 **DONNIE NIETES** 36-1-4 (PHL)
- 2 **PEDRO GUEVARA** 26-1-1 (MEX)
- 3 **ROYOICHI TAGUCHI** 22-2-1 (JPN)
- 4 **ALBERTO ROSSEL** 34-9 (PER)
- 5 **JAVIER MENDOZA** 24-2-1 (MEX)
- 6 **GANIGAN LOPEZ** 25-6 (MEX)
- 7 **REY LORETO** 20-13 (PHL)
- 8 **RAUL GARCIA** 36-3-1 (MEX)
- 9 **RANDY PETALCORIN** 23-1-1 (PHL)
- 10 **MILAN MELINDO** 32-2 (PHL)

STRAWWEIGHT

105lbs/7st 7lbs

- 1 **HEKKIE BUDLER** 29-1 (RSA)
- 2 **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN** 39-0 (THA)
- 3 **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA** 30-7 (JPN)
- 4 **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART** 11-0 (THA)
- 5 **CARLOS BUITRAGO** 28-1-1 (NIC)
- 6 **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG** 26-6-1 (CHN)
- 7 **KOSEI TANAKA** 5-0 (JPN)
- 8 **DENVER CUELLO** 36-5-6 (PHL)
- 9 **BYRON ROJAS** 16-2-3 (NIC)
- 10 **RICARDO PEREZ** 9-2 (MEX)

POUND-FOR-POUND

The best of the best

- 1 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-6-2 (PHL)
- 2 **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** 64-3 (UKR)
- 3 **ANDRE WARD** 28-0 (USA)
- 4 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 32-1-1 (USA)
- 5 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 15-0 (CUB)
- 6 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 28-0-1 (RUS)
- 7 **MIGUEL COTTO** 40-4 (PRI)
- 8 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 43-0 (NIC)
- 9 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 33-0 (KAZ)
- 10 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 26-0 (USA)

● If a fighter has been inactive for over a year, he will not be included in the rankings, unless he has a fight officially scheduled.

● Each fighter is ranked on the results they have achieved in their own specific weight division (excluding the pound-for-pound list).

● A fighter cannot be ranked in a specific weight division until he has competed in that division.

OCTOBER

FRIDAY 16

Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh

Anthony Cacace v Ronnie Clark (vacant Celtic super-featherweight title); Josh Taylor v Adam Mate; Connor Law v Cherif Sobgho; Jason Easton v Karoly Lakatos; Sam Ball v Teodor Stefanov; Josh Pritchard v Jean Noel Alvarez; Marco McCullough v Sergejs Logins; Aston Brown v Georgi Valevski. (Promoter: Cyclone Promotions).

The Glasgow City Hotel, Glasgow

Barry Craig v Youssef Al Hamidi; Lewis Paulin v Qasim Hussain; Ryan Smith v s/o; Jamie McGuire v s/o; Scott McCormack v s/o. (Promoter: Alex Morrison).

UIC Pavilion, Chicago, Illinois (Sky Sports & Spike)

Andrzej Fonfara v Nathan Cleverly; Kohei Kono (holder) v Koki Kameda (WBA world super-flyweight title); Patryk Szymanski v Richard Gutierrez; Eddie Ramirez v Ammeth Diaz; Ronald Hearn v Jamaal Davis. (Promoter: Warriors Boxing).

SATURDAY 17

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham (Sky Sports)

Sam Eggington (holder) v Dale Evans (British, Commonwealth & WBC Silver welterweight titles); Khalid Yafai v Jason Cunningham (vacant British super-flyweight title); Gamal Yafai v Nasibu Ramadhani; Matthew Macklin v Jason Welborn; Craig Cunningham (holder) v Lennox Clarke (Midlands Area middleweight title) Rob Hunt (holder) v Karl Wiggins (Midlands Area welterweight title); Zach Parker v Dan Blackwell; Cori Gibbs v Fonz Alexander; Dan Breeze v Chris Jenkinson; Jordan Cooke v s/o; Michael Rooney v Chris Adaway. (Promoter: Matchroom Boxing).

York Hall, Bethnal Green

Matty Askin (holder) v Lawrence Bennett (English cruiserweight title); Leon McKenzie v John McCallum; Joe Mullender v Ben Davies; Floyd Moore v Danny Carter

(vacant Southern Area lightweight title); Freddie Turner (holder) v Kris Agyei-Dua (Southern Area light-middleweight title); Ryan Taylor v Daniel Bazo; Bradley Smith v Alec Bazza; Josh Kennedy v Isaac Owusu; Ollie Pattinson v Gordan Glisic; Wadi Camacho v Yavor Marinchev; Charlie Duffield v Mitch Mitchell; Matt McCarthy v Casey Blair; Jimmy Cooper v Joe Beeden; Ossie Jervier v Moses Matovu; Paul Upton v Danny Brown; Sonny Upton v s/o; Peter Akubuko v Liam Griffiths; Nick Parpa v Marko Martinjak; Louie Darlin v Reinis Porozovs. (Promoter: Goodwin Promotions).

Civic Hall, Grays, Essex

John Wheatley v Matt Seawright; Paul Hilz v James Conroy; George Hennon v Ali Wyatt; Joe Jackson Brown v Egidijus Kakstys; Idris Hill v Dan Carr. (Promoter: Carl Greaves).

The Centre, Slough

Tamuka Mucha (holder) v Daza Usher (Southern Area welterweight title); John Brennan v Lewis van Poetsch; Charlie Brown v Andy Neylon; Ian Henry v Danny Donchev; Sam Wall v Robert Studzinski; Thomas Jarvis v s/o; Ricky O'Brien v s/o; Sajid Abid v s/o. (Promoter: Shamrock Promotions).

Magna Centre, Rotherham

Waleed Din v Thomas Essomba (vacant Commonwealth flyweight title); Tom Bell v s/o; Liam Cameron v George Beroshvili; Muheeb Fazeldin v Dmitrijs Beroshvili; Leon Field v Jason Nesbitt; Andy White v s/o; Kyle Yousaf v Gary Reeve; Ramzy Nassa v Sergey Tasimov; Nicolie Campbell v Kieron Gray; Christian Kinsionia v James Oliphant; Kevin Skill v Jason Jones; Scott Westgarth v Steve Cooper; Razaq Najib v Russ Midgley; Nathan McGarry v Anwar Alfadi; Darren Snow v Haidar Sadik. (Promoter: Dennis Hobson).

Europa Hotel, Belfast

Paul Hyland Jnr v Bence Molnar; Dee Walsh v Simone Lucas; James

Tennyson v George Gachechiladze; James Fryers v Barrington Brown; Joe Fitzpatrick v Peter Mellar. (Promoter: Mark H Dunlop).

Grand Central Hall, Liverpool

John Gillies v s/o; Andrew Cain v s/o; Mano Lee v William Warburton; Joe Wood v Paul O'Brien; Bernard Roe v s/o. (Promoter: Double A Promotions).

Madison Square Garden, New York (BoxNation & HBO)

Gennady Golovkin v David Lemieux (Lemieux's IBF and Golovkin's Interim WBC & WBA Super world middleweight titles); Roman Gonzalez (holder) v Brian Viloria (WBC flyweight title); Tureano Johnson v Eamonn O'Kane; Ghislain Maduma v Maurice Hooker. (Promoter: K2 & Golden Boy).

StubHub Center, Carson, California

Donnie Nietes (holder) v s/o (WBO light-flyweight title); Albert Pagara v William Gonzalez; Jason Pagara v Santos Benavides; Mark Magsayo v Yardley Suarez. (Promoter: ALA Promotions).

EagleBank Arena, Fairfax, Virginia (NBC)

Lamont Peterson v Felix Diaz; Prichard Colon v Terrel Williams; Anthony Peterson v Mike Oliver; Alantez Fox v Eric Mitchell. (Promoter: DiBella Entertainment).

Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, Connecticut

Demetrius Andrade v Dario Fabian Pucheta. (Promoter: CES Boxing).

DM Arena, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Vincent Feigenbutz v Giovanni De Carolis.

FRIDAY 23

Devonshire Dome, Buxton

Jack Massey v Gogita Gorgiladze; Kallum De'Ath v s/o; Charlie Schofield v Jamie Ambler; Maxi Hughes v Abdon Cesar; Jake Bulger v Kristian Laight. (Promoter: VIP Promotions).

02 Academy, Bournemouth

Joe Hayes v Kevin McCauley; Mitch Buckland v s/o; MH Legg v Liam Griffiths; Jake Gosling v Aaron Robinson; Danny Goode v Iain Jackson; Jack Bellingham v Victor Edagha; Ross Roberts v s/o; Billy Parker v Qasim Hussain; Danny Couzens v s/o. (Promoter: Warrior Promotions & George & Dragon Promotions).

SATURDAY 24

Sheffield Arena, Sheffield (Sky Sports Box Office)

Kell Brook (holder) v Diego Chaves (IBF welterweight title); Gavin McDonnell (holder) v Jeremy Parodi (European super-

bantamweight title); Leigh Wood v Josh Wale; David Allen v Adam Machaj (vacant Central area heavyweight title); Atif Shafiq v Jamie Robinson; Steven Hale v Dean Evans; Chris Eubank Jnr v Tony Jeter; Lee Appleyard v Andy Harris; Russ Henshaw v s/o. (Promoter: Matchroom Boxing).

Victoria Warehouse, Manchester

Jack Arnfield v Cello Renda; Ryan Doyle v s/o; Tomi Tatham v Carl Wild; Chris Conwell v s/o; Andy Kremner v s/o; Aaron Michael v Christian Hoskin Gomez; Luke Evans v Matt Seawright; Morgan Jackson v s/o. (Promoter: VIP Promotions).

Midland Hotel, Manchester

Adam Hague v s/o; Rob Hough v s/o; Matty Mainwaring v s/o; Paul Peers v s/o; Aaron Thompson v s/o; R.P Davies v s/o; Dale Arrowsmith v s/o. (Promoter: Dennis Hobson Promotions).

Kings Hall, Stoke-On-Trent

Kerry Evans v Mark McKray; Mike Jones v Paul O'Brien; Chris Nixon v Andy Neylon; Ben Eland v James Montgomery; Wade Armour v Harvey Hemsley; Marcus Le Doux v Lewis van Poetsch; Josh McLaren v s/o. (Promoter: Carl Greaves).

Oasis Leisure Centre, Swindon

Joe Hughes (holder) v Glenn Foot (English super-lightweight title); Ryan Martin v Faheem Khan; Kelly Morgan v Elene Sikmashvili; Garvey Kelly v s/o; Luke Watkins v s/o; Bryn Wain v s/o; Danny Bharj v s/o; Akeem Ennis Brown v s/o; Ben Heap v s/o; Sam Smith v s/o; Kelvin Young v s/o. (Promoter: KM Promotions).

CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Nebraska (BoxNation & HBO)

Terence Crawford (holder) v Dierry Jean (WBO super-lightweight title); Andy Ruiz v Raphael Zumbano Love. (Promoter: Top Rank).

THURSDAY 29

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow

David Brophy v s/o; Michael Roberts v s/o; Ross Henderson v s/o; Marc Kerr v s/o; Lewis Benson v s/o. (Promoter: MGM Scotland).

FRIDAY 30

Harrow Leisure Centre (BoxNation)

Travis Dickinson (holder) v Miles Shinkwin (English light-heavyweight title); Tom Baker v Jack Morris (vacant Southern Arena light-heavyweight title); Jez Smith v Fonz Alexander; Ben Smith v Kristian Laight; Georgie Kean v Nathan McIntosh; Sammy McNess v Kevin McCauley; Anthony Yarde v Elvis Dube; Prince Patel v Gary Reeve; Archie Sharpe v Dean Evans; DP Carr v Dan Carr. (Promoter: Queensberry Promotions).

BOXING ON THE BOX

THURSDAY 15

4.30pm BoxNation
LIVE AIBA World
championships

7.00pm BoxNation
Bunce's Boxing Hour
9.00pm BoxNation
Cassius & Helder

SATURDAY 17

2.00am Sky Sports 1
LIVE Nathan Cleverly

v Andrzej Fonfara

8.00pm Sky Sports 1
LIVE Sam Eggington v
Dale Evans

SUNDAY 18

2.00am BoxNation
LIVE Gennady
Golovkin v
David Lemieux

MONDAY 19

7pm BoxNation
A Fight to Remember

TUESDAY 20

8.00pm BT Sport 1
Boxing Tonight

WEDNESDAY 21

1.00am Channel 4
KOTV Boxing Weekly

AMATEUR SCENE

The very best action, previews and news from Olympic-style boxing

With JOHN DENNEN | @BoxingNewsJD

SEND us your club's news, results or upcoming events to john.dennen@boxingnewsonline.net or 020 7618 3478

Photos (2): CHRIS CONNELLY/GB BOXING

COACH'S CORNER

SIMPLIFY & INTENSIFY

Billy Walsh, Ireland's head coach, on the Worlds

IT'S very, very difficult. All [the participants] are going to be tough and quality. It's about coming with the right mindset and delivering your potential. The potential is there.

You've got to deliver that potential, especially on the big occasion. The tension gets higher, the stakes are higher. People are falling apart, that's what we worked on with these guys. Everybody's going to fall apart around us. Simplify and intensify what we do. That's all we've got to do.

The team has performed really well, the condition has been fantastic. The training, the preparation was ideal. So we've been in great form.

There's the possibility of [our 49kgs] Brendan Irvine moving to 52kgs. He's growing. We have the [Olympic] qualifier, we have five months, six months before that, so he could put in good strength work in that period of time.

Our welter Adam Nolan outworked Eimantas Stanionis, dominated, did all the things you're supposed to do.

Lightweight Sean McComb was very unlucky against Albert Selimov. We felt we won the first round but he got the first round, I feel, because of the reputation of Albert Selimov. It's difficult sometimes, especially in a fight that's counter-puncher against counter-puncher. It's cagey when one hit or two hits are going to make the difference. That was the difficulty of it. There was a lot of feinting. For the purists of boxing it was very good but for the general public it probably wasn't good to watch.

We were unfortunate but Sean's improved from the day he fought Selimov in Baku in the European Games. He's got closer to him. He should have beaten him. He's put in the effort to become a world-class athlete and he's become that world-class athlete. He'll only get better by the time [the] Rio [2016 Olympics] comes and I'm sure that he'll qualify.



NEMESIS:
Ashfaq [right]
loses, once again,
to Nazirov, but
it's so close

BATTLE BEGINS

The World championships commence at the Ali Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena, in Doha, Qatar. John Dennen logs the progress so far

DAY ONE (OCTOBER 6)

IN a sign of how demanding these World championships would be, Britain's first boxers were drawn against top-class competitors on the opening day of boxing. GB light-flyweight **Harvey Horn**, who has risen rapidly to international prominence, won his first bout of the championships in Doha on Tuesday (October 6). He picked up an impressive result, a split points victory over India's experienced **Devendro Laishram Singh**, a strong, seasoned operator who lost to Paddy Barnes in the final of last year's Commonwealth Games.

British bantam **Qais Ashfaq** had to box his Russian counterpart in his initial contest. The Leeds man lost a razor-thin split decision to **Bakhtovar Nazirov**, the same Russian who had consigned him to a bronze at the European Games earlier this year. Ashfaq has had a good year – he also won a silver at the European championships – but his next attempt at Olympic qualification will have to wait until 2016.

Quality Irish 49kgs **Brendan Irvine** beat America's **Nico Hernandez** unanimously.

Although Irish light-welter **Dean Walsh Arcon**, his teammate, middleweight **Michael O'Reilly** got his campaign off to a good start, unanimously outscoring Ukraine's **Valerii Kharlamov**.

In the afternoon session of boxing, Great Britain's light-welterweight **Pat McCormack** won his first bout, a unanimous decision against Moldovan **Dmitri Galagot**.

American heavyweight **Joshua Temple** floored Pakistan's **Mehmood Hussan** twice before the contest was stopped at the end of the first round. "I dropped him with a left hook and then jumped right back on him," Temple said. "I felt really comfortable in there. I listened to my coaches, stayed loose on my feet and then dropped the bomb."

USA middleweight **Anthony Campbell** got a good split decision win over Italy's **Salvatore Cavallaro**.



INSPIRATION:
Landon [in vest] wins in front of
iconic countryman Pacquiao

DAY TWO (OCTOBER 7)

WELSH European gold medallist **Joe Cordina** got his tournament underway with a win. The lightweight clearly outpointed Australian lightweight **Joshua Keirl**.

Cordina's GB team-mate, welterweight **Josh Kelly** also eliminated his Australian opposite number, beating **Nathan Webber** for all three judges.

British light-heavyweight **Joshua Buatsi** picked up his first World championship win, unanimously outscoring **Hyeongkyu Kim** of South Korea.

Irish lightweight **Sean McComb** defeated Mexico's **Lindolfo Delgao Garza**, 29-28 for all three judges. McComb's countryman **Adam Nolan** however suffered a split decision defeat to Lithuania's **Eimantas Stanionis** at 69kgs.

America's 81kgs, **Steve Nelson** succumbed to Morocco's **Hassan Saada**, losing a unanimous decision. The USA's team of four was on precarious ground.

DAY THREE (OCTOBER 8)

AMERICA'S remaining two boxers were eliminated on the third day of the World championships. US middleweight **Anthony Campbell** lost a split decision to Ecuador's **Marlo Delgado Suarez**, while Russian heavyweight **Evgeny Tishchenko**



THE ASHES:
Brit Kelly [right]
defeats Webber
of Australia

beat **Joshua Temple** unanimously. The four-strong American team are now out of the competition.

GB light-flyweight **Harvey Horn** lost a unanimous decision to Russia's **Vasili Egorov**. Pat McCormack also lost a unanimous vote, but on a much closer margin, to his Russian counterpart, **Vitaly Dunaytsev**, who had pocketed a disputed decision over the English light-welter in the final of the European championships. Dunaytsev now takes another win over him to put Pat out of the competition.

Ireland's Irvine, Michael Conlan (56kgs) and O'Reilly were victorious over Turkey's **Muhammet Unlu**, Brazil's **Robenilson Viera de Jesus** and Australia's **Daniel Lewis** respectively and so advance to the quarter-finals.

None other than Manny Pacquiao made a special appearance at the tournament – as if to heap pressure on the Philippines' **Rogen Landon**, who not only had to box Mexico's highly rated **Joselito Velazquez** but had to do so in front of his iconic countryman. Nevertheless Landon won a unanimous decision. ➤

DAY FOUR (OCTOBER 9)

IRELAND'S light-heavyweight **Joe Ward** defeated Ukraine's **Oleksandr Khyzhniak** on the fourth day of the World championships in Doha. Ward, a highly successful international despite his young age (he's still only 22), won 29-28 for all three judges.

Albert Selimov, who now boxes for Azerbaijan, took a split decision against Irish lightweight Sean McComb.

British super-heavyweight **Joe Joyce** overcame Morocco's **Mohammed Arjaoui** by unanimous decision. GB 52kgs

Muhammad Ali took an impressive victory over Italian **Vincenzo Picardo**, winning a split decision.

Welsh lightweight Joe Cordina scored a wide unanimous win over North Korea's

**'IT FLOWS
IN ONE
MOVEMENT
SO HE JUST
GLIDES
AROUND
THE RING'**

Choi Guk Kwon. British 69kgs Josh Kelly also picked up a clear unanimous victory over New Zealand's **Joshua Nyika**.

GB light-heavyweight **Joshua Buatsi** had the misfortune of being drawn against brilliant Cuban **Julio La Cruz** at an early stage of the tournament. Gloriously Buatsi put La Cruz down but ultimately lost a unanimous decision.

"He changes direction but he doesn't show when he's going to. It flows in one movement so he glides around the ring," Buatsi said. "I threw a double jab, right hand, left hook. I missed both jabs and the right. The left hook I didn't think would land but his chin was still there.

"He fell down quite quickly but I could tell he wasn't hurt. He got up straight away and he wasn't shaken, just got back on his bike again. Credit to him, he recovered like a true champion."

DAY FIVE (OCTOBER 10)

BRITAIN had four boxers in the quarter-finals, only for three to fall just short of a medal. Flyweight Muhammad Ali did little wrong. He advanced on Azerbaijan's **Elvin Mamishzade**, landing jabs.

The Azeri backed off, threw little but won the first round on the cards. Then, to compound Ali's misery, he picked up a cut that stopped him in the second round. Joe Cordina initially outboxed **Robson Conceição**, the World silver medallist. But the Brazilian heaved in long shots to take the second round and both men connected in the third. Conceição won a unanimous decision.

Mohammed Rabii won well against welterweight Josh Kelly. The Moroccan, who has already qualified for Rio 2016, was patient and composed. He slammed his right hand down the middle to beat Kelly to the punch and win a unanimous decision.

British hopes of a medal all came down to Joe Joyce. The super-heavyweight took on **Ali Demirezen**. The latter was much the shorter man but rough and awkward. The Turk holds a 2013 win over Joyce and leapt in with a left hook to start proceedings. At times he pushed Joyce back. But Joe raised his workrate in the second round. He swung away, clubbing at Demirezen, all those shots having an effect, and he ground out a unanimous victory. "You've got to do what you've got to do. You've got to go out there and perform," Joe said.

Joyce will leave this tournament with a medal but to qualify for the Olympics he needs to win gold.

In the bantamweight quarter-final Michael Conlan took control of **Tayfur Aliyev**. The captain of the Irish team resisted getting drawn into scrap and, assured from the start, stayed on the back foot to outpoint the Azeri.

Reaching the semi-finals assures Conlan of a medal. It means he has now medalled at the Olympic Games, the World championships, Europeans and Commonwealth Games – a tremendous track record.

While Conlan has already won an Olympic place through the World Series of Boxing (WSB), Ireland's middleweight Michael O'Reilly, fighting for global honours and a place at Rio 2016, met the reigning World gold medallist, Kazakhstan's **Zhanibek Alimkhanuly** at the quarter-final stage. Yet O'Reilly kept his cool and stayed on the back foot. He forced Alimkhanuly to come to him, fielded the Kazakh's speed and took a major scalp, winning a split decision.

At 81kgs Joe Ward outscored **Mikhail Dauhaliavets**, from Belarus, unanimously. Cuban light-flyweight **Joahny Argilagos** eliminated Ireland's Brendan Irvine in their quarter, winning a split decision.



FALSE DAWN:
Buatsi [right] drops La Cruz
but ultimately loses

Photos: CHRIS CONNELLY/GB BOXING



COOL AND CALM:
Conlan [left] outscores
Asanau to reach the final

DAY SIX (OCTOBER 11)

THE first day of semi-finals saw Michael Conlan progress to the World final. Belarus' **Dzmitry Asanau** just couldn't solve the problems the Irishman poses. Conlan feinted his left and thumped his cross in. Even when he missed an attack, Conlan bobbed down and away at once, evading Asanau's counters. While the Belarusian came back into the second round, Conlan coolly closed out the third, taking a unanimous decision and a place in the 56kgs final.

Uzbek southpaw **Bektemir Melikuziev** consigned Michael O'Reilly to a 75kgs bronze medal. Melikuziev's fast left caught out the Irishman, thumping in hard. The Uzbek's footwork wasn't smooth but he threw his punches with real speed and they connected with weight behind them. O'Reilly was always competitive and the two finished breathing heavily after three intense rounds. But Melikuziev took a split decision.

Three places at Rio 2016 are available at 75kgs. Cuba's **Arlen Lopez**, already

qualified for the Olympics through the WSB, has reached the middleweight final so O'Reilly might already have advanced far enough to qualify for Rio. He is set to box off for third place at these championships.

Cuba's **Yasnier Toledo Lopez** and Russia's **Vitali Dunaytsev** clashed in an outstanding 64kgs semi-final. The clever Russian pocketed the first round and although Lopez dialled up his aggression in the last two, blazing into Dunaytsev with particularly effective combinations in the third, the split decision went to the Russian.

Russian heavyweight **Evgeny Tishchenko** booked a finals place against Cuba's **Erislandy Savon**. Opposite **Gevorg Manukian**, Tishchenko maintained a high guard, shooting out southpaw jabs, before jolting the Ukrainian with his left uppercut. The two tore into one another in the last round to give the day a grandstand finish.

Don't miss next week's *Boxing News* for the remaining semi-finals, finals, interviews with the boxers and much more. **BN**

ASANAU COULDN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THE IRISHMAN POSES

OUTSTANDING:
Quality Lopez [left]
and Dunaytsev put on
a semi-final show



A SAVAGE BEATING

Tyson mauls former Olympic champion Biggs, writes George Gigney

DESPITE being an 8-1 underdog for his fight with Mike Tyson, Tyrell Biggs had been touted as a stiff test for the unbeaten IBF, WBA and WBC heavyweight champion. An Olympic and World champion as an amateur, Biggs had won all 15 of his pro contests and was ranked the No. 1 challenger by all governing bodies. Tyson decimated him.

The challenger fired out a constant jab in the opening round but Mike sent him back to his stool with a bloodied mouth.

"As the rounds went by he [Biggs] began to resemble the proverbial human punching bag," we wrote from ringside. Tyson took his time dishing out the punishment but "put together punches in combinations instead of throwing just one big punch as he has tended to do in recent fights."

Landing his destructive left hook almost at will, Tyson later declared he could have finished Biggs in the third but was "having too much fun."

Tyson floored Biggs in the seventh and after Tyrell rose at 'nine', Mike charged in and sent Biggs "flying" across the ring and slumped in his own corner. Referee Tony Orlando waved it off without a count, one second before the end of the round.

Photo: ACTION IMAGES

PROWLING MENACE:
Tyson has 44 knockouts to his name



BRUNO GETS BUGNER

POPULAR heavyweights Frank Bruno and Joe Bugner clashed in Britain's richest non-title fight in 1987 and while our preview noted it would have been a better matchup four years before, we also gave credit to the three men who brought it together – Barry Hearn, Terry Lawless and Mickey Duff. It was set to make over £2million and would take place at White Hart Lane in Tottenham, London.

Hearn in particular deserved

praise given that the fight was his first foray into big time boxing.

Both men were top 10-ranked fighters and so we also noted that fight could be seen as a legitimate championship eliminator – though we could not foresee either man faring well against Tyson.

We picked Bruno to win a decision with "more mauling than mayhem," but Frank took the durable Bugner out in eight rounds, setting up a fight with Tyson.

'BUNDINI' PASSES AWAY

MUHAMMAD ALI was surrounded by a large entourage for most of his glittering career, but one man in particular stood out from the rest – Drew "Bundini" Brown.

"[He] will be forever linked with Muhammad Ali," we wrote after his death at the age of 57. Although he was "too emotional" to be of any strategical use in the corner – he blubbered uncontrollably after Ali's jaw was broken during his loss to Ken Norton – Bundini "had the

knack of bringing that bit extra out of Ali when it was most needed."

His death was untimely and came after a driver crashed into the rear of his car in a road accident. The incident pinched a nerve in his spinal column and he never recovered.

The "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" slogan was of course coined by the charismatic Bundini, who had allegedly been recommended to Ali by Sugar Ray Robinson.

INDELIBLE ECHOES



Alex Daley

*Boxing historian
and author*

LASTING tribute to the National Sporting Club (NSC), an institution that once governed and shaped British boxing, was unveiled at London's Covent Garden on Monday 12 October.

The green plaque, installed at the NSC's 43 King Street former headquarters, was unveiled by the current Lord Lonsdale, whose ancestor lent his name to the iconic

Lonsdale Belt introduced by the club. Descendants of some of the men who boxed at the NSC and current pros who inherited its rules and traditions were at the unveiling.

Credit for the plaque must go to boxing historian Harold Alderman, MBE, and Bernard Hart, founder of the Lonsdale sporting brand, whose campaign for the memorial was realised with help from the London Ex-Boxers Association, Westminster City Council and the building's present owner, Capital & Counties Properties PLC.

Ex-parliamentary reporter and 1882 ABA lightweight champion Arthur Frederick ('Peggy') Bettinson opened the NSC in March 1891 with business partner John Fleming. Their aim was to give boxing, which was then widely viewed as a dubious back-alley activity, greater respectability and social acceptance.

They achieved this feat expeditiously with the roll-out of a well-crafted set of rules which became the norm for boxing in Britain. Adapted from the Queensberry Rules of 1866, the NSC rules introduced compulsory gloves, stricter safety precautions and a 20-round cap on contests, with a mandatory minute's rest between rounds.

Modern boxing is run on similar lines to those laid down by the NSC. In fact, the club's scoring system of awarding a boxer up to five points per round was only replaced in Britain by the current 10-point system in 1973.

The NSC did much to bring boxing in from the cold but there is a flipside to its autocracy. In keeping with its high-minded ethos, the NSC was for members only and off limits to the hoi polloi. Its patrons were mainly stockbrokers, high-class shop owners, merchants, manufacturers and even members of the landed gentry, with women barred

The NSC plaque provides an everlasting reminder of the roots of modern British boxing

Photo: LUCY DALEY



completely.

Fresh from a sumptuous meal in one of the NSC's dining rooms, the club's dinner-jacketed members would file in to its ornate amphitheatre, thick with cigar smoke. Under club rules an eerie silence was observed during actual boxing, with polite applause – no cat-calls, cheers or whistles – permitted between rounds. Members of the press, who were only just tolerated, were accommodated on uncomfortable benches.

In 1909 the NSC introduced a championship belt at eight self-nominated weights, named after its president, Lord Lonsdale. For a while, the Lonsdale belt system gave the club a monopoly over British title fights – it chose the challengers, terms and dates for all championship fights, which could only be seen by club members and their guests at 43 King Street. The man on the

street could then only read about title fights in the papers.

In the 1920s the NSC lost its grip as ambitious promoters drew boxing stars away from the club, offering them bigger purses at rival shows staged at larger venues. The NSC tried unsuccessfully to compete, hiring Holland Park Skating Rink for its own big promotions. Finally, Peggy Bettinson's death in 1926 sealed the club's fate and it closed in 1929 amid financial ruin.

Even so, the NSC left an indelible mark on boxing. Not only did it give us the Lonsdale belt and proper rules, but it played host to such ring legends as Peter Jackson, Sam Langford, Tommy Burns, Pedlar Palmer, Georges Carpentier, Jimmy Wilde, Jim Driscoll and Freddie Welsh. It also established the British Boxing Board of Control, which succeeded it as British boxing's governing body.

EX-BOXER ASSOCIATION NEWS

Croydon EBA annual dinner

Croydon EBA's 34th annual dinner takes place on Saturday 17 October at the Masonic Hall, Oakfield Road, Croydon. This year's guest of honour is Simon Euan-Smith. Tickets cost £33 per head and are available from Croydon chairman Barry Penny on 020 8651 2742.

Welsh EBA annual convention

Reports received from John Beale and Alan Parr on the recent Welsh EBA annual convention at Cardiff – a roaring success. Ex-champions Steve Robinson, Barry Jones, Robbie Regan,

Jason Cook, Jamie Arthur, Gary Lockett, Chris Sanigar, Lennie "The Lion" Williams and new Welsh EBA president Eddie Avoth were there. Also present were 1960s fan-favourite Gordon Blakey and the reigning European amateur champion, Joe Cordina.

Representatives from at least 11 associations – Brighton, Croydon, Eastern Area, Essex, Hastings, Home Counties, London, Plymouth, Torbay, Wales and Leicester – attended.

Email exboxers@gmail.com with your ex-boxer association news.

LIAM DESMOND

Paul Wheeler talks to the Essex Michael Phelps

Photo: DAVID ISLIP PHOTOGRAPHY

When and why you started boxing:

I used to watch John Wayne Hibbert train and box, and he told me to give it a go. I started when I was eight years old at Newham Boxing Club.

Favourite all-time fighter:

Marco Antonio Barrera, because he was such a tough fella with a big heart – a brilliant fighter.

Best fight you've seen:

It's got to be Arturo Gatti-Micky Ward I [a 10-round majority verdict victory for Ward in May 2002].

Personal career highlight:

Being 5-0 as a professional. Also, in the amateurs, I was a Junior ABA finalist and I won the Haringey Box Cup.

Toughest opponent:

Johnny Coyle in the amateurs. It was non-stop punching – a great fight for the fans to watch.

Best and worst attributes as a boxer:

My main strength is that I'm good at drawing my opponent in and making him fight my fight. My weakness is that when I get caught with a punch, I get frustrated and try to immediately come back with one of my own, instead of being clever. I've improved on this recently.

Training tip:

When you have a bad day in the gym, don't take it to heart. Everyone has bad days. Just come back at it.

Favourite meal/restaurant:

I'd probably say Nando's.

Best friends in boxing:

People who I've trained with, like Charlie Driscoll, Matt McCarthy, Kyle McCarthy, Darrel Church and John Wayne Hibbert.



'I USED TO BE QUITE A GOOD SWIMMER. I HAD TRIALS FOR MY COUNTY, ESSEX'

Other sportsman you would like to be:

It'd be a footballer. Maybe David Beckham.

Last film/TV show you saw:

Fast & Furious 7. It was quite a good film.

Who would play you in a film of your life:

Mark Wahlberg.

Have you ever been starstruck:

When I met Anthony Joshua. He's a right nice fella, and really down-to-earth.

Last time you cried:

I can't remember for sure. It was probably when my grandad died.

Best advice received:

When I'm having a bad day in the gym, my dad and trainers tell me to get my head down and keep on it.

Worst rumour about yourself:

I don't think I've ever heard one about myself.

Something not many people know about you:

I used to be quite a good swimmer when I was younger. I had trials for my county, Essex.

FAST FACTS

Age: 22 **Twitter:** @liam_desmond **Nickname:** 'The Hammer'

Height: 6ft 2ins **Nationality:** English **From:** Corringham **Stance:** Orthodox

Record: 5-0 **Division:** Middleweight **Titles:** n/a **Next fight:** Desmond was forced to pull out of his scheduled clash with Robert Stuczinski this Saturday (October 17) due to injury.

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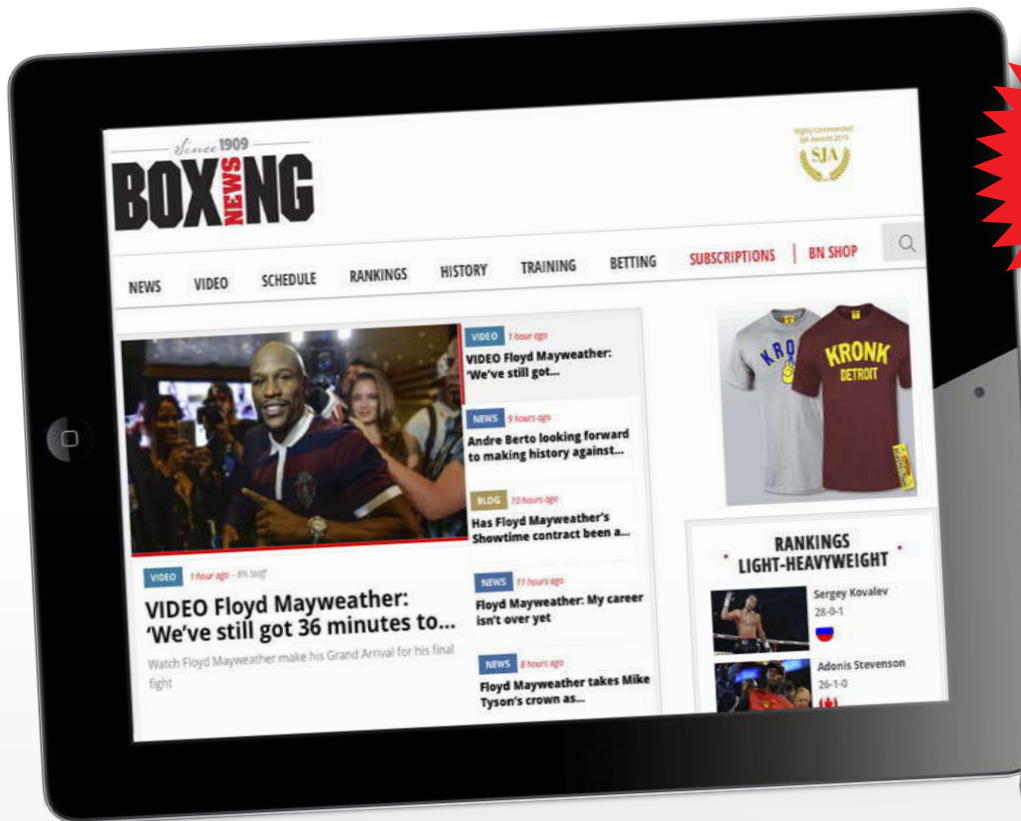
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